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Inter-Arab Affairs

Cordon States Foreign Ministers Arrive for Meeting

Egypt's Musa 'Cautiously Optimistic'

JN0506192293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa arrived in Amman this evening to participate in the meetings of the cordon states' foreign ministers. Musa made the following statement to our correspondent at the airport:

[Begin recording] [Musa] Actually, I am cautiously optimistic about the negotiations at present. However, I must add that the situation is much better now than it was a few months ago.

[Unidentified reporter] [PLO Executive Committee member] Mahmud 'Abbas has stated that this coordination meeting is not intended to discuss participation [in the 10th round of peace talks], which has already been decided. Do you believe that the coming negotiations will be held in several rounds or in one open round?

[Musa] This matter is still open for discussion. At the 10th round of talks, there may be a decision about whether it will continue as an open round to allow negotiations to last until an agreement is reached. In fact, time should not be wasted, and negotiations should continue, so we can reach a result, which we hope will be positive, regarding a peace based on the land-for-peace formula. [end recording]

PLO's Qaddumi: Coordination Essential

JN0506210293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, arrived in Amman tonight to take part in the meetings of the foreign ministers of the cordon states. In a statement to reporters, Qaddumi said that these meetings are of extreme importance, since Arab cooperation and coordination are essential for successful negotiations and for arriving at a unified Arab position. Undoubtedly, he said, in the wake of the ninth round of talks, we need to make a comprehensive assessment of this round and of what we can do at the subsequent rounds.

On the role that Washington is required to play in case a 10th round of negotiations is held, Qaddumi said: Before the 10th round is held, there must be discussions with the United States on the need to put pressure on Israel, for if it persists in this course, it will constitute a basic obstacle to the negotiations and their success.

On Faysal al-Husayni's visit to Washington before the 10th round at Washington's invitation, Qaddumi said that a decision on the invitation had not yet been made. However, he said, after the Amman coordination meeting, we will adopt the required decisions in light of the results that will be reached by the conferees tomorrow.

Musa, Qaddumi Meet al-Majali

JN0606065693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Excerpt] The foreign ministers of the Arab parties concerned with the Middle East peace process will begin their meetings in Amman this afternoon. The Egyptian and PLO delegations arrived in Amman yesterday, while the Syrian and Lebanese delegations are expected to arrive today. Details are in the following report.

During their meetings, the foreign ministers of the Arab parties concerned with the Middle East peace process will review the results of the ninth round of Arab-Israeli talks recently held in Washington. They will also coordinate stands toward the 10th round of negotiations scheduled to be held in Washington in the middle of this month.

The Arab delegations participating in these meetings have begun to arrive in Amman. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, arrived last night. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz are expected to arrive today.

In a press statement on arrival at Amman airport yesterday, 'Amr Musa expressed cautious optimism toward the Middle East peace process. He emphasized that this year must not pass without achieving progress in the negotiations. He called for continuing the negotiations in order to achieve positive results that lead to peace based on the land-for-peace formula.

On his arrival in Amman last night, Faruq Qaddumi told reporters that the meetings of the Arab parties concerned with the peace process are very important, especially since Arab coordination is a basic element in rendering the negotiations a success and in reaching a united Arab stand before attending the 10th round of talks. He noted that the past rounds were obstructed by Israeli intransigence and stressed that the United States should pressure Israel into changing its policy in order to render the negotiations a success.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, prime minister and foreign minister, met separately with 'Amr Musa and Faruq Qaddumi in his office at the Prime Ministry last night. During the two meetings, discussion dealt with developments in the peace talks, obstacles facing these talks, the importance of Arab coordination, and the role of the cosponsors of the peace conference in putting the peace process on the right track based on the land-for-peace formula and on implementation of UN resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338. [passage omitted]

Musa Interviewed

NC0606074093 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, in Amman, by Ramadan Husayn, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] Minister Musa, welcome to our program.

[Musa] Thank you.

[Husayn] To start with, your meeting will review the outcome of Egypt's contacts on all levels to prepare for the beginning [as heard] of the peace process. Would Your Excellency tell us about these contacts?

[Musa] Egypt's contacts are part of the international and Arab efforts to make the peace talks succeed. These talks are inspired by the idea of exchanging land for peace. As we have said repeatedly, Egypt is an Arab country interested in the restoration of Arab land and rights in the framework of a peace agreement and in line with international legitimacy, UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the Madrid formula. This is the framework in which the Egyptian activities and contacts are taking place.

Negotiations are under way. Egypt is not a part of the bilateral negotiations process, but it helps as much as it can, as much as the brothers require, and in the way it deems useful for these talks.

[Husayn] Can we, Your Excellency, expect these contacts to produce useful results in the coming round?

[Musa] We hope so.

[Husayn] Concerning the amendments that were introduced to the U.S. working paper aiming to reconcile the Palestinian and Israeli views concerning the proposed declaration of principles, do you believe that these amendments will be accepted by both sides?

[Musa] The U.S. paper that was presented at the end of the ninth round is still under discussion. The Palestinian and U.S. sides will meet soon to discuss it. The contents of these amendments and the proposals that the Palestinian and Israeli sides have in mind are still open for discussion.

[Husayn] Could you tell us about the issues and topics that will be discussed in a few hours at the cordon states meeting?

[Musa] We will evaluate the ninth round and prepare for the 10th round.

[Husayn] Your Excellency, concerning the proposed date, 14 June, has it been accepted by all sides, particularly the Arab side?

[Musa] I do not think there is opposition to this date. Yesterday, invitations were handed out to the four Arab sides and Israel to resume negotiations on 14 June in Washington. No replies have yet been given to our knowledge, but no difficulties are anticipated.

[Husayn] Your Excellency, you met with [PLO Executive Committee member] Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, in Cairo recently. What were the most important topics you discussed?

[Musa] We assessed the peace process to date, particularly the ninth round, and issues of concern to the Palestinian side. We briefed him on the outcome of our contacts with certain capitals. The meeting was useful and represented a prelude to the Amman talks.

[Husayn] Minister 'Amr Musa, many Palestinian officials have called for a bigger U.S. role in the next round of talks. To what extent could we justify the Palestinian viewpoint, particularly since there is word that Israel resorts to wasting time concerning the issue of negotiations?

[Musa] Actually, all sides showed seriousness during the ninth round. The U.S. role is important and the U.S. Administration—as we see it and as a result of our contacts with the U.S. side—is willing to play a more active role as proved by the presentation of the recent paper in the ninth round. Therefore, it is expected that the U.S. role will be more active.

[Husayn] In your opinion, how could the Israeli measures in the occupied Arab territories affect the continuity of the negotiations and the coming round of talks?

[Musa] What is wanted is a better atmosphere in the occupied territories and better living conditions for the Palestinian citizens living there. The less tension there is, the more humane the Israeli authorities are, and the more the Geneva treaties and human and international laws are implemented, the better the climate for the peace process will be.

[Husayn] Your Excellency, some observers and analysts expect some progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track that may not be matched by similar progress on the other tracks, particularly on the Syrian-Israeli and the Lebanese-Israeli tracks. What do you say?

[Musa] I do not think this is correct. Perhaps some observers support this view, but there are other observers who do not. There is a possibility of progress on all tracks.

[Husayn] Your Excellency, meetings of the Arab cordon states foreign ministers have previously come out with a consensus. Do you think that this will become a pattern?

[Musa] I hope so.

[Husayn] Thank you, Your Excellency.

Buwayz Arrives

JN0606105793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and his accompanying delegation arrived in Amman this morning to take part in the meetings of the foreign ministers of Arab states concerned with the peace process.

On arrival, Buwayz said that today's meetings are an expression of Arab solidarity. He added that the meetings aim at coordinating stands, assessing the results of the past rounds of negotiations, and discussing participation in the 10th round.

The Lebanese foreign minister was received by Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs.

Al-Shar': Unified Stand Needed

JN0606145993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Amman—The coordination meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab countries directly involved in the peace process began in the Jordanian capital at noon today.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his delegation arrived in Amman this morning to attend the meeting. Al-Shar' was received at the airport by Talal al-Hasan, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, Majid Abu-Salih, the Syrian ambassador in Amman, the embassy staff, Nayif al-Hadid, the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus, and ranking Jordanian Foreign Ministry officials.

In a statement upon arrival, al-Shar' emphasized that the coordination meeting between the Arab parties to the peace talks is important in order to reach a unified stand, whether on the previous stage and an assessment of the bilateral rounds of talks held so far or concerning the next stage.

The foreign minister added: At this meeting, we will discuss the invitation extended by the cosponsors to convene the 10th round. We will also assess the ninth round, its results, and the obstacles that faced progress in that round. We will also discuss the role of full partner, which the United States proposed, and to which it committed itself, and the importance that this role be in line with the terms of reference of the peace process and the principles on which it was based. This role should also be in line with the international legitimacy and the international law.

Answering a question on the possibility of progress in the peace process before the end of this year, al-Shar' stressed: We are engaged in a difficult battle, that is the peace battle, based on the justice of our cause, and the principles and terms of reference of the peace process—this process which is based on implementation of Security Council resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338, which bind Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories.

The foreign minister held Israel responsible for obstructing implementation of these two resolutions and said the Israeli obstacles should be faced with a unified Arab position, on one hand, and with international pressure, on the other. The foreign minister asked the United States to shoulder a special responsibility to put Israel on the right track to implement the Security Council resolutions. He stressed that without this, peace will not be obtained.

Al-Shar' said: We still believe that the chance is available to reach a just and comprehensive solution in the region, based on the international legitimacy and UN resolutions, but in all cases, if this process falters the responsibility will be, in the first place, on Israel. The United States, as a sponsor of the peace process, bears a special responsibility to push the parties toward a just and comprehensive settlement in the region.

Al-Majali Opens Meeting With Address to Ministers

JN0606123593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Arab countries concerned with the peace process began their meetings at the Royal Cultural Center in Amman this afternoon. Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, who is also Jordan's foreign minister, opened the meetings with a speech in which he welcomed the participating delegations in Amman, the city of accord and reconciliation. He said:

[Begin al-Majali recording] My brothers, their excellencies the ministers and esteemed heads and members of delegations: It greatly honors me to be with you this morning. I hope my brothers will allow me to welcome them, in the name of his majesty the king and on behalf of the Jordanian Government and the Jordanian people, in their country [as heard] Amman, the city of accord and reconciliation. We welcome them and hope they will undertake a basic task at this stage and in our long march—the march of peace which we view as a process through which rights can be obtained, and not capitulation that gives rights to others. We are men of peace and will continue this march to the end—an end which should really satisfy us and all future generations so that they will take pride in what you, the men of peace, can accomplish. Please accept our warmest greetings and great respect. Amman is your country today, tomorrow, and always. I hope you will stay long here not for the sake of holding talks and negotiations, but to strengthen the bonds of friendship and amity which we all know are available among us all. During the past long months, we held very warm meetings that rendered our relationship stronger than the mere diplomatic ties. I beseech

Almighty God to always grant us all success and accord in the interest of our nation. Thank you all. [end recording]

The ministers then held a closed working session to discuss the agenda. It was chaired by Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs. Coordination for the next round of the Arab-Israeli peace talks is the main topic of the Amman meeting. This meeting is being attended by Talal al-Hasan, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi. The ministers will hold consultations among themselves in order to emerge with one unified Arab position prior to the resumption of the 10th round of negotiations which will be held in Washington on 15 June. The cosponsors of the Middle East peace conference had earlier invited the concerned parties to attend this round. During this meeting, the ministers will be briefed on the Arab viewpoints about the peace process. They will also discuss the proposals some delegations may present and both review and assess the ninth round of the Arab-Israeli talks. They will also discuss the latest developments of the peace process and the situation in the Middle East.

Following the opening session, Dr. al-Majali told reporters:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] You said it is possible to reach a solution before the end of the year. What makes you so optimistic?

[Al-Majali] I did not say there will be a solution before [the end of the year]. I said that there will be tangible progress from now to the end of the year because we feel the two sponsors are showing extreme concern and we feel there is a change in the offers made by the other party. [end recording]

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received the foreign ministers shortly before the start of the meetings. The foreign ministers are expected to conclude their meetings in Amman this evening. A final statement on the results of the meeting will then be issued.

Ministers Comment on Opening Session

JN0606140693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali says he hopes the Middle East peace process will move forward. Speaking to journalists after opening the first round of policy coordinating talks by the foreign ministers of the Arab states engaged in the peace process in Amman today, al-Majali said: We always hope for the best. On efforts to heal Arab rifts and close Arab ranks, al-Majali said: We are as drawn to our Arab brothers as ever. We always reach out to them.

The prime minister hoped this session will prove advantageous to Arab interests and inter-Arab ties. Asked how optimistic he was that a solution was possible by year's end, al-Majali said: I never said there will be a solution; all I said was that by year's end tangible progress will have been made. This is because we feel that the conference sponsors are showing real interest in the peace process. We also feel that there has been a shift in the ideas put forward by the other side. The peace process, he added, is still on, and we will keep it going. We trust it will pick up speed, given a real interest in the peace process on the part of the international community and the sponsors.

The foreign ministers concluded a closed session this afternoon. Emerging from the talks, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz told the press the ministers took stock of the state of the Arab-Israel negotiations. It emerged from the discussions that the ministers held identical views on the peace process, Buwayz said.

Meanwhile, Syria's Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said the ministers will hold further discussions this evening.

A statement will be issued after this evening's concluding session.

King Husayn Receives, Addresses Arab Foreign Ministers

JN0606155493 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Court today the foreign ministers of the Arab countries concerned with the Middle East peace process. His majesty stressed that the Arab cause is strong and just. He pointed out that there is a growing understanding of this cause. He said: The Arab nation is passing through a delicate and decisive stage that necessitates a high degree of responsibility. His majesty expressed his satisfaction with Arab coordination, especially since it is a nucleus for restoring dialogue and true cooperation among the Arab nation's countries on sound and firm bases.

His Majesty King Husayn spoke about our people's suffering in the occupied Arab territories, and about the Palestinian people's daily tragedies. He called for holding a constructive dialogue with the world, something that further contributes to understanding our just cause. His majesty added: We will work resolutely to defend human rights, freedom, and dignity for the sake of the nation's future and dignity.

His majesty stressed the need for realizing a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy. He urged the Arab foreign ministers to continue to work to push the peace process in a way that would secure the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights, and achieve stability in the region.

Attending the meeting were His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Royal Court Chief Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan, Syrian Foreign

Minister Faruq al-Shar', Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi, heads of Arab delegations to the peace talks, the Jordanian ambassadors to the Arab countries concerned with the peace process, and the ambassadors of Arab countries concerned with the peace process to Jordan.

His Majesty King Husayn hosted a luncheon in honor of the Arab foreign ministers, heads of the Arab delegations to the peace talks, and the ambassadors.

Ministers Prepare Final Statement in 2d Session

JN0606184793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Arab countries concerned with the peace process have resumed their meetings in Amman. The ministers held a second closed session, which is still going on.

The ministers conducted a comprehensive assessment of the previous rounds of talks and were briefed by the delegations participating in the bilateral talks about progress in the tracks of the Arab-Israeli talks. The ministers also discussed invitations extended by the cosponsors of the Middle East peace talks to the parties concerned to attend the next round of talks scheduled to be held in Washington mid-June.

The conferees formed a committee to draft the final statement, which will be submitted to the ministers for the final touches. The final statement will be announced at the conclusion of meetings later tonight.

'Text' of Final Statement

JN0706055093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0420 GMT 7 Jun 93

["Text" of statement issued by the Arab foreign ministers of states involved in peace talks with Israel at the end of their coordination meetings in Amman on 7 June]

At the invitation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the foreign ministers of the Arab states participating in the bilateral peace talks—the Syrian Arab Republic, Palestine, the Republic of Lebanon, and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan—held a meeting in Amman on 6 June 1993. The foreign minister of the Republic of Egypt also took part in the meeting, which is part of ongoing coordination and consultation among the ministers. Several heads and members of the Arab delegations to the bilateral peace talks also took part in the meeting.

The meeting mainly addressed the ninth round of the bilateral negotiations, held from 30 April to 13 May 1993, in light of intensive contacts and consultations with the cosponsors of the conference, in order to eliminate the obstacles that obstructed the convening of the round as a result of the failure to make real progress in the previous rounds and Israel's noncompliance with Resolution 799, which stipulates the immediate return of the deportees.

The ministers noted that despite the assurances given prior to the start of the ninth round, Israel did not abide by its overall commitments to the United States. This casts further doubts on the extent of Israel's seriousness and obliges the cosponsors of the conference to ensure that all parties adhere to the bases of the peace process.

While welcoming the U.S. announcement about its plan to assume a the role of a full partner in the peace process—which could have constituted progress in the U.S. contribution had the outcome of the previous round risen to the aspirations accompanying the announcement of the convening of the round—the ministers reaffirmed that the United States should undertake a full-partner role to ensure the implementation of the bases, principles, and decisions on which the peace process depends, in line with the principles of international justice and legitimacy.

The ministers denounced the Israeli policy of repression against the Palestinian people and Arab citizens in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, noting in particular the siege of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the isolation of holy Jerusalem, the rise in the number of innocent civilian victims, and the continued building of settlements and demolition of homes.

The ministers warned of the serious consequences of such practices on the future of the peace process and the situation in the region in general. They held Israel fully responsible for all consequences, calling on the cosponsors of the peace process to make Israel immediately stop all its human rights violations in the occupied Arab territories and urge it to abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

The ministers also denounced the continued Israeli attacks on Lebanese territory, noting this would only increase tension in the region.

In light of this, the ministers agreed on the following:

1. To reaffirm abidance by solidarity and coordination among the Arab parties participating in the peace process and their commitment to the attainment of comprehensive and just peace in accordance with the bases of this process and its terms of reference represented by the principle of the return of land in exchange for peace; the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, including Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories that were occupied in 1967, foremost the city of Jerusalem; the recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate political and national rights on their national soil; UN Security Council Resolution 425 on Israel's withdrawal from the Lebanese territories to the internationally acknowledged Lebanese borders without any preconditions; and the reaffirmation of the commitment to a comprehensive solution on all fronts and for all parties.

2. To denounce all the Israeli practices, violations, and attacks in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, which are a blatant violation of international law and the bases of the peace process and its terms of reference and actually endanger the chances of success of this process. The continuation of these violations and practices will undermine the entire process, for which Israel will be held responsible before the international community.

3. To warn against the consequences of Israel's continued avoidance of discussion of basic issues and matters in accordance with the bases and terms of reference of the negotiations and its adoption of methods of procrastination and prevarication through its emphasis on marginal issues.

4. To call on the United States to exercise the role of a full partner and effectively and objectively develop this role in a manner that will secure full and faithful abidance by the bases and principles of the peace process, particularly the principle of land in exchange for peace, and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 in a manner that prevents prevarication or procrastination in implementing these resolutions.

5. To call on the cosponsors of the conference and the international community to compel Israel to take the immediate necessary steps and measures to provide the suitable atmosphere for the success of the current negotiations. These are headed by the following:

—Ending the siege imposed on the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including the closure of Holy Jerusalem.

—Ending the fait accompli policy being pursued by the Israeli Government.

—Respecting human rights in these territories through the implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

—Implementing UN Resolution 799.

—Ending the continued Israeli violations of Lebanon's sovereignty and its territorial integrity.

6. To work for attaining and bolstering Arab solidarity, given that this is the appropriate framework to defend the legitimate Arab rights, protect the future of the individual in the Arab homeland, and guarantee the success of the current process of negotiations and have it attain its goals.

7. Proceeding from their serious commitment to the peace process and out of their desire to give a further opportunity for the efforts being made to help this process attain its aspired goal, represented by the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace that puts an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of complete withdrawal for complete peace and in reference to the invitation by the cosponsors of the conference to all parties to participate in the 10th round, the ministers have agreed to intensify contacts with the cosponsors of the peace process during the remaining time before the beginning of that round, with the aim of securing the cosponsors' serious intervention to achieve substantial progress in the negotiations.

8. The ministers agreed to hold the next coordination meeting in Beirut.

Maghreb News Agencies Conference Opens in Tunis

LD0406165993 Rabat MAP in English 1249 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] Tunis, Jun 04 (MAP)—The fourth conference of the general directors of the Maghreb news agencies opens, today Friday in Tunis, in the presence of Ali Belarbi, president director general of Tunis Afrique Presse (TAP), Abdeljalil Fenjiro, director general of Maghreb Arab Press (MAP/Morocco), Abdelhamid Kacha, director general of Algeria Presse Service (APS), Yeslem Ould Ibn Abdem, director general of the Mauritanian News Agency (AMI), and in the absence of the Libyan News Agency (JANA).

On the agenda of the two-day conference are questions related to cooperation and exchanges between the Maghreb agencies, development of the pool of the Maghreb Arab Union (POOL/UMA), common use of means for news dissemination via satellite, and establishing a joint data bank.

Works of the conference will be opened by Abdelwahab Abdallah, Tunisian minister-counsellor at the presidency and official spokesman of the president of the Tunisian Republic.

Palestinian Affairs

Delegation Confirms Participation in Upcoming Talks

TA0506103493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] PLO sources have informed the Washington administration that the Palestinian delegation will come to the next round of peace talks. The announcement was relayed through an unofficial channel. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the sources nevertheless pointed out that they depend on the decision of the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Amman tomorrow. This meeting is expected to decide on the participation of the other delegations and to coordinate positions in anticipation of the talks scheduled for 14 June.

People's Party Decides on Boycott

JN0606105093 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Jun 93 p 20

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] SAWT AL-SHA'B has learned that the Palestinian People's Party [PPP], formerly the Palestinian Communist Party, which is represented in the negotiating Palestinian delegation by Ghassan al-Khatib and Taysir 'Aruri, will boycott the 10th round of negotiations, which are scheduled to be held in Washington this month.

It is worth noting that the PPP boycotted the ninth round of negotiations to protest the U.S. Administration's policy of double standards toward the Palestinian issue.

Palestinian sources close to the PPP said that the party is boycotting the negotiations because the U.S. Administration has abandoned the promises it included in the letter of invitation and those made to the Palestinians. The PPP is also boycotting the negotiations because it is convinced that the fate of the 10th round will be the same as that of the ninth round.

SAWT AL-SHA'B also learned that Palestinian figures are intensifying contacts with Bashir al-Barghuti, secretary general of the PPP, and Sulayman al-Najjab, the PPP's representative in the PLO Executive Committee. These contacts are aimed at convincing the PPP to reconsider its decision to boycott the 10th round.

Palestinian sources did not rule out Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's intervention in an effort to persuade the PPP not to boycott the 10th round of negotiations.

PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh Previews Cordon States Meeting

PM0406115493 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 3 Jun 93 p 1

[Fathi al-Barqawi report: "Qaddumi and 'Abd-Rabbuh To Participate in Cordon States Meeting"]

[Excerpt] Tunis, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—[passage omitted] A Palestinian delegation that includes PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi (Abu-al-Lutf) and Information Department head Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh left Tunis today for the Jordanian capital, Amman, to participate in a meeting to be held by the foreign ministers of the Arab Cordon states on 6 June.

In an exclusive statement to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd-Rabbuh revealed that the Palestinian delegation will propose the formation of an Arab delegation at ministerial level to make contacts with capitals to be specified, such as Washington, Moscow, and other European, African, and Islamic capitals. The objective is to send a unified Arab message to the effect that the peace process in the Middle East cannot continue as long as Israel continues to violate Security Council Resolution 242, as long as Israel refuses to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy, and as long as repression, the blockade, and human rights violations are continuing in the occupied territories.

The PLO Executive Committee member adds that the Arab cordon states also need to address the Arab community as a whole through a more comprehensive Arab meeting, in order to lay foundations to govern the course of Arab action, not only in the framework of bilateral negotiations, but also in the multilateral negotiations, and in order to ensure the various Arab parties' commitment to not moving toward any steps leading to normalization before a radical and real solution is achieved vis-a-vis the other Arab territories and their recovery and the achievement of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Asked whether consultations and contacts have been made with other Arab parties over the Palestinian proposal, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that this issue was discussed during recent visits by Palestinian delegations to the Arab capitals concerned. He pointed out that the Arab states with which the issue was discussed have expressed no objection. Asked whether the agenda of the cordon states' foreign ministers will focus on the question of resuming bilateral peace negotiations, the Palestinian official said that the Amman meeting will not deal with the question of participation or nonparticipation in a 10th round. He stressed that the objective of the meeting is to assess the nine rounds of negotiations, especially after the Israeli side submitted on all tracks several plans that do not differ in essence from the previous Israeli positions—which led the negotiations on the various tracks to something like an impasse. For its part, the United States submitted some ideas and proposals through which it sided with Israel. He described this as a serious development that should prompt the Arabs to conduct a serious assessment to find possible means of talking to Washington on the basis that the policy it is pursuing threatens the peace process as a whole and exposes it to total collapse.

'Abd-Rabbuh believes that the Palestinians will try to secure a mutual Arab commitment not to achieve a separate solution on any front without achieving solutions on all the other fronts. This is in addition to the need to adopt a unified position to rehabilitate the authority of the peace process and implement Resolution 242, which stipulates Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories on all fronts.

PNC Official Views Delegation's Visit to UAE

NC0506145993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, secretary of the Palestine National Council [PNC], said that the current visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] by a high-ranking Palestinian delegation led by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas is the result of efforts President Mubarak made to clear the atmosphere between the UAE and the Palestinian state.

Speaking to MENA, Subayh said Egypt sent a number of messages to the UAE to prepare for this visit. He added that Mubarak made serious efforts, particularly during

his recent Gulf tour, to remove what has marred relations between the Palestinians and the UAE.

Subayh noted that the delegation includes Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the advisory panel to the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, and Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador to Egypt. He pointed out that the visit aims to brief UAE officials on developments in the peace process and the conditions and sufferings of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories as well as to discuss UAE-Palestinian relations.

This is the first visit to the UAE by a high-ranking Palestinian delegation since the Gulf crisis in 1991.

Al-Husayni Views Egyptian, U.S. Peace Roles

NC0606112693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1054 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jun (MENA)—Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the advisory committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has commented on Egypt's important role in the peace process. Al-Husayni said that Egypt has always had a leading role in activating the peace process.

Concerning the U.S. role in the negotiations, al-Husayni told today's issue of AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I that there are Egyptian assurances that the United States will continue in a better way [satastamirr bi shaklin afdal] to play the role of full partner to the talks.

Concerning the possibility of resuming the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, al-Husayni said that the possibility is always there. We call for official meetings between the United States and the PLO, he said.

Al-Husayni added that the PLO apparatus is in Tunisia. We are a delegation representing the PLO in the peace talks, he stated.

Al-Husayni said that he will go to Washington soon to discuss numerous issues, particularly those concerning the Palestinian declaration of principles.

Delegate Abu-Middyan on Hamas, Peace Talks

TA0706082893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Report on interview with Furayh Abu-Middyan, member of the peace talks delegation, by Razi Barqay on the "It's All Talk" program; remarks by Abu-Middyan recorded in English on 7 June]

[Text] [Barqay] The Palestinians are on their way to Washington, this time without any preconditions. They also share the feeling that this round of talks will be more fruitful and that the declaration of principles with Israel will finally be signed. Earlier this morning, I spoke with Furayh Abu-Middyan, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. Mr. Abu-Middyan is a resident of the Gaza Strip who also serves as chairman of the Gaza Bar Association. The first thing I asked him about was Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Does he agree that this movement, which has just seen many of its activists arrested, is no less a danger to the Palestinian cause than it is to Israel?

[Abu-Middyan] Yearly, there is more than 1,000 or 2,000 already arrested every year since 26 years, and Mr. Rabin knows that very well. I expect this mass arresting for Hamas and everybody, you know. They are arresting 120 from Hamas and the other side, and Fatah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and others, maybe more than those. But Israel concentrates on the Hamas only, while you know, these security matters happened since 26 years. Why nowadays Israeli authorities are concerned and concentrate just for the last operation against Hamas? Actually, maybe within six months or one year, Mr. Rabin himself will declare about 300 or 500.

[Barqay] What do you gain from these arrests, Abu-Middyan asked? How many people can you arrest every year: 1,000; 3,000? The problem is not only Israel's security needs; it is the occupation. Once the occupation ends, Hamas will disappear. But Hamas will not settle for an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders, we told the Palestinian delegate.

[Abu-Middyan] Actually, Hamas are clever and pragmatic people, and I am sure that they will participate in elections and how to share the cake in the future. This is our problem between us and them, and I am sure that we could manage between us. No problem with them.

[Barqay] The Hamas is pragmatic, our interlocutor said. When the time comes, it will be happy to share power and democratically participate in Palestinian politics.

As for Jordan and the recent statements made by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Abu-Middyan confirms that there are no major differences between Jordan and Israel; however, he asserts, the Jordanians will not sign a treaty before Israel and the Palestinians reach agreement.

[Abu-Middyan] There is no specific problem with Jordan and Israel. Actually you could reach a settlement with Jordan within one week, no more, because actually how to indicate the borders, how to have diplomatic relations, about the mail, about transportation. Actually, it is very easy between Israel and Jordan. There is no problem, and actually we have expected that since a long time. But you know, this will encourage other parties to continue. But on the other hand, Jordanians alone, they could not sign the peace treaty without any real achievement with the Palestinians.

[Barqay] The Palestinian delegate reiterated what he considers a major obstacle to the signing of a Palestinian-Israeli document. You Israelis want to implement an interim agreement, whereas we Palestinians seek a permanent settlement, he said. The question is: How to link the two?

[Abu-Middyan] How to link the interim period with the final period? Particularly or specifically, we have to link the interim period with the final settlement basically on 242 and 338. This is very important. We are talking about to end the occupation after five years. Maybe we are going to have a confederation with Jordan. This is not the problem about an independent state or not. The problem is how to end the occupation and have a peace treaty with the Israelis, to indicate the borders between Gaza and West Bank and Jerusalem and Israel. This is the main point. Actually and basically, the main principle is peace for land and land for peace, basically on 242 and 338. This is the main points which the Palestinians will struggle for it in the next round.

[Barqay] We want territories in return for peace. We want clearly demarcated borders which will include the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and Jerusalem. We are not necessarily discussing an independent Palestinian state. One can also propose a confederation with Jordan. What is important for us is that the declaration of principles stipulate a linkage [preceding word in English] or some connection with the permanent settlement, the highlight of which will be the end of the Israeli occupation.

In summation, I asked Furayh Abu-Middyan whether he fears that the growing rejectionist opposition in the Palestinian street is beginning to pose a threat to his life.

[Abu-Middyan] Maybe. The political assassination is very dangerous for everybody to the Palestinians, and everybody avoids this point, and they will never reach it, God willing.

[Barqay] No, I have no fear, Abu-Middyan said, noting that he walks the streets of Gaza without any problems. Political murders are a dangerous thing, and the Palestinians understand that.

'Abd-al-Shafi, Gaza Bar Chief on Peace Process

TA0606142693

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 6 June carries three page 3 reports by 'Oded Lifshitz on the "peace bloc" demonstration at the Eretz checkpoint yesterday. Lifshitz says that the rally was greeted by "Gaza Strip leaders, headed by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian peace talks delegation, and attorney Furayh Abu-Middayn, a member of the delegation" and chairman of the Gaza Bar Association.

The first report says 'Abd-al-Shafi "declared that the Palestinians are committed to peace and are standing by their commitments. 'We oppose the closure, oppression, and humiliation, and we oppose those who put up fences and roadblocks between the peoples. We shall walk toward peace despite the obstacles placed by the Israeli government.'"

The second report includes an interview with 'Abd-al-Shafi, in which he says that "Israel's stand at the negotiations constitutes a real obstacle on the way to peace." He adds that the Palestinians are "willing to accept an interim period, provided that settlement in the territories during this period is stopped." He goes on to say that "settlement in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and mainly in East Jerusalem continues. Israel must stop settlement in East Jerusalem." He said that "the discussion of the future of Jerusalem can be postponed, provided that Israel stops settlement and does not present us with facts on the ground."

In his third report, Lifshitz interviews Abu-Middayn, who criticizes Rabin's policy as defense minister, charging that he "insists on setting up Army posts in the heart of refugee camps." Abu-Middayn claims that "in riots that broke out in the Khan-Yunus refugee camp alone, after the Army set up a lookout post there, some 400 Palestinians were killed or wounded." He further says that following the killing and detention of fugitives during the closure, "the Palestinian organizations have changed their policy and stopped the activity of fugitives who used to parade the streets, showing off their weapons. The fugitives today operate under a veil of secrecy. According to him, their ranks are swelling because many young Palestinians are joining them."

'Arafat Receives Kozyrev Message on Peace Process

LD0506181793 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received a message from Andrey Kozyrev, the foreign minister of Russia, pertaining to the peace process in the Middle East and the next round of peace talks.

In his message the Russian foreign minister stressed the significance of continuing the peace negotiations and the necessity of hammering away at the obstacles obstructing its path.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar received the message when he met Boris Shiborin, the Russian ambassador to Tunisia, this morning. During the meeting, the latest developments in the situation in occupied Palestine in light of the escalating acts of oppression, violence, and murder the Israeli authorities are carrying out against our people, as well as the sealing off of the occupied territories and the isolation of the city of Jerusalem, were reviewed.

Holds Talks With Butrus-Ghali

LD0606193593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and PLO executive committee chairman, today received UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali and his delegation. [passage omitted]

Dr. Butrus-Ghali affirmed the UN's constant readiness to play the required role in safeguarding and preserving international peace in accordance with the UN Charter.

Following the meeting, Brother President Abu-'Ammar said in a statement that he held positive, constructive, and blessed talks with Dr. Butrus-Ghali. During the talks, the peace process was raised as well as the importance of continuing the process, despite the difficulties and barriers being placed by the Israeli Government in front of the Palestinian and Arab negotiators. [passage omitted]

Brother Abu-'Ammar said the ministers of the cordon states meeting in Amman will debate the increase in Israeli suppression and violence in occupied areas, in addition to evaluating the results of the ninth round of the peace negotiations and adopting a unified Arab stand regarding the 10th round of the negotiations.

Concerning the UN's role in the peace talks, brother Abu-'Ammar said he raised this matter with Dr. Butrus-Ghali and confirmed that the UN's role in the present peace process is more effective than its role at the outset of the peace conference in Madrid. He expressed the hope that the UN's role in the coming stage of the peace negotiations will be more effective than it is at present.

After the meeting, Dr. Butrus-Ghali also stated that his talks with Brother President Abu-'Ammar were extremely positive. He said he has appointed Mr. Chinmaya Gharekhan, assistant UN secretary general, as his special envoy, who will take part as a UN representative in the multinational peace negotiations which will be taking place in various world capitals.

Dr. Butrus-Ghali explained that this representative will follow up the issue and its developments, so that the UN can offer all its good offices in order to arrive at a peaceful settlement of this issue in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions, in particular Resolutions 242 and 338. [passage omitted]

Factions Urge Withdrawl From Talks, Criticize Libya

JN0606195193 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Jun 93

["Text" of political statement issued on 6 June by the 10 Palestinian factions opposed to Arab-Israeli peace talks; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Before the 10th round of the Middle East peace talks, the United States is trying to get the Palestinian and Zionist negotiating teams to agree on a declaration of principles to lay the groundwork for administrative self-rule first in Gaza and subsequently in the West Bank. What is being prepared ahead of the 10th round is extremely dangerous.

The 10 Palestinian factions, along with our masses within the homeland and in exile and all the conscientious Arabs, declare their rejection and condemnation of the plans that detract from our national certainties. We urge the negotiating team and the leadership holding the reins in the PLO to immediately withdraw from both the bilateral and multilateral talks as a prerequistie for initiating a national dialogue about how we can best promote our people's cause and pursue the struggle for our people's rights.

We applaud the determined heroes of our people, who are holding their ground in the face of blockades and repression, thereby telling the world that the Palestinian people will settle for nothing less than freedom and liberation.

We applaud our brother deportees who are stranded at Marj al-Zuhur and whose resolve to return en masse to the homeland is a milestone in our people's struggle.

We hereby declare that our people are dissassociating themselves from the course of the Madrid-Washington talks and the administrative self-rule scheme that they may yield. All of us will eventually be judged by the people and history. The leadership dominating the PLO—sheltering under the wings of certain Arab quarters—has the right neither to impose its will on the Palestinian people nor to cloak its defeatist stands with the excuse of falling in line with the Arab position. The Palestinian cause is the number one concern of the Arab and Islamic nations. Defeatists' will may falter, but the will of the Arab nation shall not weaken.

Our Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic masses: Our people have been dismayed and shocked by the visit to occupied Palestine by a group of Libyan citizens under the pretext of performing 'Id al-Adha prayers at the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque. No matter what the excuses advanced, the visit—besides the considerable damage it has done to our Palestinian cause—falls within the framework of an effort to normalize relations with and extend recognition to the Zionist entity. Defeatist Arab regimes may find in this step an opening to set up direct and public relations with the Zionist enemy. The visit is a slap in the face for Arab and Islamic masses, as well as being a blow to the history of Libya and the principles for which 'Umar al-Mukhtar died and the 1 September Revolution was launched—a revolution whose password was al-Quds. Palestinians in the homeland and in exile greeted the news of the visit with disapproval and condemnation. We in the 10 Palestinian factions denounce the visit, and, at the same time, realize that this dangerous step does not reflect the will of the Libyan Arab people nor the leadership of the 1 September Revolution. Driven by concern for Libya and Palestine, we demand punishment for the perpetrators of this crime and a definitive end to such dangerous moves so that Libya may remain devoted to its Arab nation's causes, above all the Palestinian cause. We also denounce calls emanating from certain Arab states—Kuwait in particular—to terminate

the Arab boycott of the Zionist enemy. We demand that such dangerous moves be brought to a halt. [passage omitted]

Clinton's Foreign Policy Shows 'No Hope of Improving'

LD0406142693 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 3 Jun 93 p 11

[Editorial: "Disasters of Clinton's Policies"]

[Text] Opinion polls conducted recently in the United States indicate that U.S. President Bill Clinton's popularity continues to decline four months after he took office. Experts agree that he has done nothing good, but they fear that he might make bad decisions which could affect the country's future and standing as a major world power.

Perhaps the main disappointment is the result of the poor performance of the country's economy and the lack of signs of real recovery. In his election campaign, Clinton focused on giving priority to domestic conditions and on salvaging the economy from its crises. He won the election on the basis of these promises. His failure to translate his promises and his inability to achieve successes abroad means that his presidential term will be a disaster.

Maybe the first four months of his term is not sufficient for a conclusive verdict, because it takes years before any economic program can produce real fruits, but President Clinton's hesitant personality does not help him to tackle the big burdens that lie on his shoulder, both inside and outside the country, and make the right decisions required from him.

And if foreign policy is the the most important domain, as far as we are concerned, Clinton's and his administration's performance in this domain has been very bad, and there is no hope of it improving in the near future.

With regard to the Bosnia issue, we find that the U.S. President rashly backtracked on his previous decision to intervene militarily against the Serbs and shell Serbian concentrations to stop the annihilation and ethnic cleansing operations they are carrying out against Muslims. This backtracking came after his European allies refused to back him in this step.

With regard to our Arab region, not only did the ninth round of bilateral negotiations, held in his administration's era, end in complete failure, but it also exposed a blatant U.S. pro-Israeli bias. It became clear that the Clinton administration's concept of the role of a full partner in these negotiation means putting pressure on the Arab parties to accept Israeli demands, not vice versa.

The fate of the 10th round, which is scheduled to be held in the middle of the month, is not expected to be better than the fate of the previous rounds, if it is even held. This is because the Israeli obstacles are still a stumbling block in the way of any attempt to make progress regarding a settlement, the transfer of authority, or withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

President Clinton talks about human rights violations in Burma and yet ignores the continuing Israeli violations in the occupied Arab territories, although the latter defy the imagination, to the extent that babies have been killed by live Israeli bullets.

What is more, the U.S. President still considers Israel the only democratic state in the region, when its prisons are crowded with over 13,000 detainees, most of whom are held without a fair trial. And it closes the occupied territories and prevent its residents from entering Jerusalem to pray in al-Aqsa Mosque of the Holy Sepulcher.

Clinton's poor performance at the domestic and foreign level does not mean that his predecessor George Bush was any better. This is because what Bush did to the Arabs before, during, and after the Gulf war exceeded what Hulegu [grandson of Genghis Khan] did. All present divisions and the big failure in the peace process are the results of his arrogant policies, which were hostile to Arabism and Islam.

VOP Views U.S. Stance in Peace Talks

LD0406191093 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Excerpts] If the United States under the Clinton administration wishes to withdraw from its position at the top as the only superpower in the world, then this means that it is abandoning its responsibilities arising from this position, which was imposed on it following the end of the cold war and the collapse of the Communist world in Eastern Europe. There are voices in the United States that are being raised today calling for no spending of U.S. resources abroad except when U.S. vital interests are threatened. In other words, there is a U.S. policy that calls for the noninterference in foreign affairs except through a multinational international effort. If this is the U.S. policy on international relations, it dictates that the countries of the world should reconsider their policies and relations with the United States. U.S. abandonment of its role by leaving a vacuum in the world dictates that other sides in the world should fill this vacuum. [passage omitted]

The world is asking: Where are the values and principles which America continued to raise in defense of human rights. Where are freedom and democracy? [passage omitted]

Following the completion of the ninth round of the Middle East peace negotiations without the realization of any worthwhile progress, and the failure to push the sides involved into more flexible positions, it has become certain that the results of the tenth round, which the United States is striving to convene this month, will not be better than those of the previous nine. It is not

sufficient for the U.S. Administration to announce that it is a full partner in the negotiation and that its role remains as an observer. All sides in the negotiations expect that the U.S. role should be similar to that of former U.S. President Carter when he played an effective role in achieving peace between Egypt and Israel. This is the role that all expect from Washington following the announcement that the United States is a full partner in the negotiations. The United States will deceive itself if it thinks that the Arabs and the Israelis are able to realize settlements without the intervention of and pressure from the United States directly on the sides so that the latter may offer concessions and obtain guarantees.

The internal situation in the Mideast states involved in the peace process and the position of the Palestinians in particular impose on their leaders that they should not appear to compromise their rights without appearing to realize the minimum of their peoples' expectations. If they offer concessions, it is inevitable that the United States should support them to protect these agreements and convince the peoples of the region that the partner in the negotiations stands resolutely on the side of respecting and implementing what has been agreed upon. The U.S. Administration is required to put forth a broad outline of its thoughts regarding what is required for peace, and a clear strategy regarding its role in the peace process and the region. Twenty months ago at the Madrid peace conference, it took the role of cosponsor. Even with the arrival of a new administration it is illogical that the United States should abandon its commitments and role vis-a-vis this region, which can explode if no progress in the peace process is realized. No state in the region shall escape the effects of such an explosion. Even U.S. interests shall not escape such a tremor. The peoples of the region have reached such a degree of dispair that this may push them toward extremism, radicalism, and violence, a matter that compels all to take this golden opportunity to make the peace process successful and to put an end to the deterioration of the situation in the region.

PLO in Jordan Said Experiencing Financial Crisis

JN0606181193 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Jun 93 pp 1, 24

[By Tawfiq al-'Abid]

[Text] For the third consecutive month, PLO employees and cadres in Jordan have not received their salaries because of the acute financial crisis from which the PLO has been suffering since the Gulf crisis. The monthly and annual financial aid that was extended to the PLO has been suspended.

Palestinian sources suffering the loss told AL-DUSTUR that nonpayment of salaries for this long period has resulted in complaints from these cadres. They worry about the present situation and the future of their families. They also pointed out that previous delays in payments did not last more than one or two weeks, after which offices and local banks had the funds to pay out.

They also said that 40 families are threatened with being evicted from their apartments.

AL-DUSTUR has learned that the employees of the Palestine National Fund are the only ones who receive their salaries regularly.

The Palestinian sources also said that the PLO has taken several austerity measures to face this suffocating financial crisis, including the recent reduction of health services to cover only 25 percent of medical bills. Other large-scale measures also affected aid to the occupied territories, to wounded and jailed Palestinians, and to families of martyrs. For several months, some of these people have not received any money, which the PLO pledged at the beginning of the intifadah to pay.

They added: Fatah cadres in particular are suffering as a result of the delay in paying the salaries. Other Palestinian organizations are not facing such financial crises because they have their own budgets.

A noteworthy fact is that about 245,000 dinars are being paid in salaries to employees, reserve forces, and security committees, while the total sum of the salaries amounts to half a million dinars. The sum of 8 million dinars that was extended to the occupied territories every month has recently been reduced to only 700,000 dinars.

Hamas Issues Statement on June Intifadah Activities

JN0506174993 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, today issued statement No. 99 in which it hailed the struggle and sacrifices of the people of the intifadah. It also hailed the steadfastness of the deportees in Marj al-Zuhur and denounced double standards that [words indistinct] toward international issues. In its statement, the Islamic Resistance Movement called for implementation of the following activities:

—The days from 8 June [as heard] will be considered days of distinguished escalation against enemy troops and vehicles. There will be an escalation of the armed struggle and war of knives on the anniversary of the Zionist aggression of 1967 and the invasion of Lebanon.

—9 June will be considered a day of comprehensive strikes on the beginning of the 67th month of the intifadah.

—17 June will be considered a day of comprehensive strikes and massive protests to mark the sixth month since the unjust deportation decision was made and on the anniversary of the martyrs of the al-Buraq revolution anniversary.

—18 and 25 June will be considered days for massive confrontations.

—27 June will be considered a day of distinctive escalation through demonstrations, sit-ins, and massive processions toward the al-Aqsa Mosque on the anniversary of the illegitimate annexation of Jerusalem and to protest the isolation of Jerusalem from the rest of Palestine.

Al-Rantisi: Offer To Return Deportees 'Trial Balloon'

JN0506180493 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Deportee spokesman Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi has described the Zionist entity's proposal to allow 150 deportees to return home as a trial balloon and maneuver that does not merit a response. He said: We demand implementation of Resolution 799. We will study and respond to what we deem to be in line with this resolution.

OPEC Affairs

Kuwaiti Oil Minister, UAE Daily on Quotas, 8 Jun Meeting

NC0706085093 Paris AFP in English 0812 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, June 7 (AFP) - Kuwait's demand for a higher OPEC production quota is expected to dominate the cartel's ministerial conference which opens in Geneva on Tuesday, Gulf oil sources said Monday [7 June].

Kuwait, still recovering from seven months of Iraqi occupation, has already made it clear it would not accept less than two million barrels per day (bpd) compared with its quota of 1.6 million bpd for the second quarter, but faces Iranian opposition.

In an interview with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily AL- BAYAN Monday, Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli said his country had fully respected its production quota and it was now time to be rewarded.

"Kuwait has complied with its output quota for the second quarter and now it is OPEC's turn to honour its pledge to give Kuwait an increase," he said.

He said Kuwait should be offered a quota similar to that assigned to the countries which have equivalent crude reserves and production capacity. The comment was an apparent reference to the UAE, which has an OPEC quota of 2.16 million bpd.

Kuwait's crude reserves are estimated at 90 billion barrels while the UAE's are put at around 95 billion barrels. Before the Gulf war, both countries had almost equal output capacities and have vied for equivalent quotas within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

"There is a clear and frank promise by OPEC members to raise Kuwait's quota at the next meeting in return for its respect of its previous quota," al-Baghli said. "Our quota should be more than two million bpd but Kuwait will display some flexibility on this issue although it will insist on a proper quota rise." [passage omitted]

The Kuwaiti demand will be discussed in Geneva Monday by the oil ministers of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf OPEC members. Oil sources said Gulf states promised support for Kuwait when al-Baghli visited them last month.

"The Kuwaiti demand will be the theme of Monday's discussion and will dominate OPEC's conference as an increase of 400,000 bpd is not small," a Gulf oil source said. "Gulf countries have promised Kuwait to back its demand but it is not clear how far they will go in their support."

Commenting on Tuesday's meeting, the UAE daily AL-KHALIJ urged OPEC to roll over its official ceiling to support prices, which have languished at three to four dollars below the group's target of 21 dollars. Analysts attribute this to overproduction by some members, pushing up OPEC output to more than 24 million bpd in May compared with around 23.8 million bpd in April.

"The sound approach which should be adopted by OPEC tomorrow should be based on a low-output strategy in face of a glutted market by approving a ceiling that is far below forcasts about demand," it said.

"But it will be better if OPEC maintains its current ceiling and redistributes quotas in a way that will see individual sacrifices with the aim of achieving joint interests in the long run. Boosting income should be through raising prices not production."

Algieria

Ministry Extends Curfew to Three More Provinces

LD0406203293 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] The Interior and Local Authorities Ministry reminds the citizens that the curfew which was introduced on 5 December 1992 throughout the provinces of Algiers, Blida, Tipaza, Boumerdes, Bouira, Medea, and Ain Defla has been extended to the provinces of Chelf, M'Sila, and Djelfa beginning Saturday, 5 June.

Accordingly, it has been decided that the curfew in the aforementioned provinces will be in effect from 10:30 P.M. until 5:00 A.M., during which the movement of persons and vehicles is completely forbidden.

The Interior and Local Authorities Ministry also informs the citizens who need to move for important reasons during the curfew hours that they can go to the police and gendarmerie stations to request movement permits.

The Interior and Local Authorities Ministry points out that the extension of this measure responds to the need of maintaining the safety of persons and property.

Security Forces Kill Five Terrorists

LD0606123493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Regarding the security situation, it was learned from security sources this morning that five terrorists who were wanted by the police were killed by the security forces at dawn today in Makaria, in the administrative district of Hussein Dey. In this operation, the security forces recovered a Kalashnikov sub-machine gun, an Uzi pistol, and a Smith and Wesson automatic revolver, in addition to a large quantity of ammunition.

Trial of Armed Gang Begins in Constantine

LD0606142293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Excerpts] A special court in Constantine this morning began the trial of a group of defendants implicated in a number of crimes including forming armed gangs with the intent to attack public forces. Hayat Bouzidi is following the trial:

[Bouzidi] A group of defendants appeared before a special court in Constantine today. They included Azzedine Choualeb, Smair, Elias Boudemagh, and Hassan Mesai.

According to the indictment, which was read at the beginning of the session and which includes their confessions to the police, the investigating judge and the control chamber, the defendants are charged with forming an armed gang, with the intent to attack the public forces and seize their weapons, together with others who are still at large including Bou Lahlib. [passage omitted]

After the indictment was read, the hearing of the accused began, starting with Azzedine Choualeb. He is accused of taking part in the attack on a passenger station, carrying out an ambush in the municipal slaughterhouse, carrying out the assassination of a police officer, and refusing to make any statement to the investigating judge. The accused denied all the charges against him. He admitted only that he was a party to the attack on the station. He denied that he used firearms and said he only used ineffective home-made weapons. [passage omitted]

UN Secretary General Returns to Algiers

LD0406225893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali tonight arrived back in Algiers from Tindouf. He was welcomed by Redha Malek, member of the HSC and foreign minister, and Messaoud Ait Chaalal, the official government spokesman. At Houari Boumediene International Airport, the UN secretary general held a news conference at which both the national and international media were represented. At this news conference he spoke about several international issues including the question of Western Sahara. Correspondent Fatima Zehra Aarous approached Mr. Butrus-Ghali and asked him about his talks with the president of the SADR:

[Begin recording] [Butrus-Ghali in French, fading into Arabic translation] Talks were held regarding the importance of finding a peaceful settlement for this issue—a peaceful settlement based on the UN resolutions, particularly Resolution No. 809, which was adopted by the UN Security Council a few months ago. I presented to the leadership there a paper in connection with the method of referendum. This paper was prepared by His Excellency Minister Yaqub Khan with a group of experts—it is a new compromise. This paper was also presented to the Moroccan side. I have great hope that the two sides will agree to this new paper. On the other hand, we have begun measures for registering a number of electors who will participate in the referendum. I have great hope that we will be able to hold the referendum in accordance with Resolution No. 809, before the end of this year. [end recording]

Minister Meets French Parliamentary Delegation

LD0506205693 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Redha Malek, member of the Higher State Council and foreign minister, had a meeting today at the Foreign Ministry with a French parliamentary delegation led by Xavier de Villepin, chairman of the French Senate Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

The talks dealt with Algerian-French bilateral relations and international issues. The French parliamentary delegation arrived in Algiers yesterday, and it will be having talks with the Consultative Council in the next few days.

Ali Haroun, member of the Higher State Council, also received the French Senate delegation today. The talks touched upon issues of common interest, particularly relations between Algeria and France.

Egypt

Musa Returns From 'Frank' Amman Talks

NC0706103593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0811 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo this morning from Amman, having led Egypt's delegations to the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab countries concerned with the peace process, held yesterday in Amman.

Following his arrival, Musa said he will submit a report to President Husni Mubarak on the outcome of the talks and meetings he held there.

The foreign minister described the talks as frank. The foreign ministers, he said, evaluated the outcome of the ninth round of peace talks and discussed preparations for the 10th round. Musa pointed out that the statement issued after the talks contains the points that were discussed.

Musa said Egypt will hold talks with the peace talks cosponsors to overcome the obstacles facing the talks. The Egyptian foreign minister said that he met with Jordan's King Husayn and Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali to discuss the peace process and look into ways to stimulate it.

Musa commented on the coming meeting of the Damascus Declaration signatory countries on Saturday [12 June]. He said that the meeting is important because it will focus on Gulf security as well as political cooperation among the eight countries involved. Musa expressed hope that the meeting will give new life to the Damascus Declaration. He said Egypt does not have proposals to present at the meeting and that the matter depends on the debate that will take place during the meeting.

The foreign minister said Egypt will take part in the important international conference on human rights, due to be held in Vienna on 14 June. The conference, he added, will look into the various aspects of human rights as well as the rights of communities and nations.

Ethnic cleansing in Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as human rights in the occupied Arab territories will feature prominently on the agenda, Musa said. He added that some major countries are trying to impose their own ideas about human rights and pose as champions of human rights. These countries, however, failed to lift a finger when ethnic cleansing was under way, which certainly raises the question of double standards. This issue must be discussed, he said.

Musa said that during the recent Islamic Conference Organization meeting, Egypt called for ethnic cleansing to be treated as a crime against humanity.

Concerning the Vance-Owen plan, Musa said it calls for partitioning Bosnia-Herzegovina into 10 states. Despite the fact that the Vance-Owen plan does not give the Muslim side its full rights, it is still better than all the other proposals. Egypt, Musa said, disagrees with the plan recently presented by five Western countries because it would cause problems later.

Commenting on the recent fighting in Somalia and the death of a number of peacekeeping troops, Musa said Egypt condemns such acts. The Somali elements responsible for the attack have proven that they have learned nothing. Musa urged punishment for the culprits or those who ordered the attack, saying that such an incident could push the Somali problem back to square one and submerge the Somalis in renewed fighting, bloodshed, and suffering despite the progress made toward peace and stability.

Foreign Minister Meets PLO's 'Abbas, Faysal al-Husayni

NC0406130593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, over a working lunch today. The meeting was attended by Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory team of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks; Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal; and Fatah's representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah.

Speaking after the meeting, Kamal said they discussed developments in the Palestinian issue and the peace process as well the travel of a Palestinian delegation to Washington. The delegation will hold talks with the U.S. officials on the results of the ninth round of negotiations, the U.S. draft statement submitted at the end of the ninth round, and the obstacles facing the negotiations. He said they also reviewed the subjects to be discussed at the meeting of foreign ministers of Arab states concerned with the peace process in Amman on Sunday.

'Abbas, al-Husayni, and Kamal are due to leave Cairo tomorrow for Abu Dhabi on a few days' visit to the United Arab Emirates, where they will hold talks with officials on developments in the Palestinian issue.

AFP: Security on Gaza Border Said Tightened

NC0506090193 Paris AFP in English 0837 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, June 5 (AFP)—Egypt has tightened security along its border with the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip to bar the infiltration of Palestinian Muslim militants, police sources in Cairo said Saturday [5 June].

According to Israeli authorities, several wanted Palestinian activists who are members of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, have fled from the Gaza Strip to Egypt since Israel sealed off the territories at the end of March.

On Thursday, Hamas called for a strike in the Gaza Strip to protest against the detention in Egypt of several of its members who had fled there from Israeli repression.

In another development, Egypt has reinforced its controls along borders it shares with Sudan and Libya in a bid to bar Muslim militants from infiltrating into the country, the official daily AL- AHRAM reported Saturday.

The paper said the Interior Ministry, which recently surveyed those frontiers, had "pointed to ten access points and several routes used by the (fundamentalist) elements coming from abroad to slip into Egypt."

The roads in question have been placed under strict police control, the paper said.

The 1,100-kilometer (683-mile) Egyptian-Sudanese border and 1,200-kilometer (745-mile) Egyptian-Libyan frontier are in a desert region, making their control difficult.

Egyptian authorities recently announced the arrest of several Egyptian militants who had infiltrated the borders from Libya or Sudan and who they said planned to carry out "terrorist operations" in the country.

Egypt has accused Sudan of sponsoring fundamentalist violence on Egyptian territory.

AL-AHRAM on Israel's 'Contradictory' Positions

NC0506073293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0616 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM describes Israel's positions on the peace efforts in the region as contradictory. In its public stand, Israel declares its eagerness to reach a final solution under which the Palestinians would have their legitimate rights and land restored. However, Israel's practical stand is completely different.

Israel's extremists and fanatics, the paper says, tend to speak louder than other groups in Israel, project a larger-than-life image of themselves, and portray intransigence as being the position of the entire Israeli people, AL-AHRAM writes.

The paper warns that political blackmail by Israel is not useful in the present and will be disastrous in the long run. Arab-Israeli reconciliation can only take place if it is based on justice and Israel's full withdrawal from Arab land. Israel, AL-AHRAM states, should abandon its expansionist policies and relinquish its outdated dream for a greater Israel.

Musa Comments on Dispute With Sudan, Peace Talks

NC0606144793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Sudan angered the Arab world and African states by adopting policies that lead to differences that go far beyond a mere border dispute with Egypt over Hala'ib. He noted that the dispute between Egypt and Sudan is not just over Hala'ib but is much deeper.

The foreign minister made these remarks to REUTER in response to a question about chances for reconciliation between Egypt and Sudan regarding the dispute over Hala'ib. In the meantime, Musa pointed out that he does not believe the dispute will develop into fighting, adding that the two countries are trying to resolve the matter. The foreign minister noted that the fact that no armed confrontation between the two sides has taken place does not mean that Egypt accepts Sudan's policies, about which many Arab countries disagree with Sudan and over which many African states are concerned.

Asked about a possible inter-Arab reconciliation, the foreign minister expressed his belief that this matter will take some time. He noted that the anger felt by the Gulf states over Iraq's aggression against Kuwait prevents any progress in improving relations between the two countries.

On the developments in the Middle East, Musa said that Israel seems to be determined to improve conditions in the occupied territories, in a gesture on its part to give impetus to the Middle East peace talks. He stressed that full foundations have already been laid down for potential agreements between the Arabs and Israel to be signed during the 10th round of talks, which are scheduled to open in Washington on 15 June. Musa added that the ninth round of talks was fruitful, not in the sense of the results achieved, but in terms of preparing the atmosphere for holding serious negotiations.

Musa Receives Message on Bosnia From UK's Hurd

NC0506100293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has received a message from his British counterpart Douglas Hurd that reviewed Britain's stand on the resolution issued by the Security Council yesterday on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The message is part of the contacts between Egypt and Britain to put an end to the fighting raging in Bosnia, protect the Muslims there, and find a solution for the Bosnian problem.

Foreign Minister Receives U.S. Congressman

NC0406205193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa this evening met with Harry Johnson, chairman of U.S. Congressional Committee on Africa. Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and the U.S. ambassador in Cairo also attended the meeting. [passage omitted]

Chief Editor: CIA Protects Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman

NC0406202893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jun (MENA)—Ibrahim Sa'dah, chief editor of the newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM, in the Saturday edition, launched a fierce attack against U.S. media and the CIA, and accused them of protecting and popularizing Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. The accusations are based on reports in U.S. newspapers and magazines. In a lengthy article covering almost three pages, he said that, as we know in Egypt, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman is no more than an advocate of violence and terrorism. A proof of this is the fact that he was arrested repeatedly on charges of extremism, particularly the assassination of former President Anwar al-Sadat. He noted that U.S. media made him a celebrated star and newspapers wrote pages on his life and hopes.

Sa'dah noted a report published in THE NEW YORKER and cited it as saying that Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman's ties with the CIA began in Peshawar, Pakistan, near the Afghan border, through Golboddin Hekmatyar. He considered this to be evidence of Shaykh Abd-al- Rahman's relationship with the CIA. He also based his information on a report by Robert Feldman in the U.S. paper VILLAGE VOICE on 30 March under the title "The CIA and the Shaykh" that the CIA permitted Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman to work in the United States. Sa'dah wonders why nerves got tense in Washington and many angry statements were made in protest and rejection just because the Egyptian papers cited U.S. papers on Shaykh 'Abd-al- Rahman's ties with the CIA.

Libyan Pilgrims Leave, Comment on Jerusalem Visit

NC0406212393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2041 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] Al-Sallum, 4 Jun (MENA)—The Libyan delegation members who made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem left the land border post of al- Sallum at 2215 for Libya at the end of a week-long visit to occupied Jerusalem. Daw Salim al-Tajuri, official spokesman of the delegation, said that he expects the delegation's visit to Israel to be discussed by the Basic Congresses, particularly because the decision is personal. He noted that the people's view will be referred to the General People's Congress which may condemn the delegation and refer them to the people's court or decide that their conduct was sound. He said that the personal decision was based on national and pan-Arab motives to prove to the world that the Libyan voice demanded liberation of Palestinian land in the heart of Israel. He noted that the delegation succeeded in embarrassing Israel and causing divisions in the Israeli Knesset.

'Hidden' Aim of Jerusalem Visit

NC0706083893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jun (MENA)—AL-AHRAM, in a commentary in today's edition, says that it seems that the masterminds of the Libyan excursion to Jerusalem have failed to keep a firm grip on matters. The excursion has backfired and failed to meet its objectives.

There are signs, the paper says, that the Libyan stint was meant as a prelude to other transactions between Israel and Libya and possibly to a visit to Israel by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi as part of a drive to end the sanctions against Libya and improve its relations with the West in genearl and the United States in particular. The excursion was fashioned after a visit to China by a U.S. table tennis team, which paved the way to Washington's recognition of Beijing.

Despite the touristy style in which the excursion was organized, AL-AHRAM writes, politics soon got involved. Israel welcomed the excursion as well as the possiblity of a visit by al-Qadhdhafi. However, the Palestinians living in the occupied land—not surprisingly, we may add—rebelled and considered it a cheap downpayment for a losing political deal.

Consequently, the spokesman for the Libyan excursion was forced to deny any political motives of the visit, claim that its only goal was to perform prayers in al-Aqsa Mosque, and state that Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine. The Israelis were piqued in their turn and called for the Libyans' expulsion. The Libyans performed their rites but the visit had to be cut short.

The visit was meant to appear spontaneous, the paper writes, but it triggered a chain of events that aborted its hidden aims. To sum it all up, AL-AHRAM writes, the visit had a political aim. However, this aim is now unlikely to be achieved due to the flak that the poorly-planned visit has drawn.

Assistant Foreign Minister Leaves for Poland

NC0606155093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1517 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jun (MENA)—Assistant Foreign Minister Isma'il Mubarak left here today for Warsaw on a

two-day visit to Poland. Mubarak stated that during the visit he will discuss international issues and Egyptian-Polish relations, as part of the mutual agreement between the Egyptian and Polish Foreign Ministries to maintain political consultations on a regular yearly basis at the level of the assistant foreign ministers.

Commentary Attacks Iran's 'Misleading' Media

NC0406194193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1740 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Mahmud Marzuq commentary: "The Lies of the Misleading Iranian Information Media"]

[Excerpts] One of the strangest allegations made by the false and misleading Iranian media was that they are defending Islamic causes and that they will extend this media campaign East and West to spread this false and misleading message. But in the light of events, we ask: Why did Tehran radio claim that the Iranians held a gathering in Mina, and that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom banned processions by the Iranian demonstrators during the hajj? Saudi Arabia did not want to engage in a media war with Iran over this issue during the hajj season and did not want to escalate matters and raise an argument about an issue which religious scholars agree is an invention and is not part of the hajj tenets. The issue is the insistence of some Iranians on carrying out undisciplined processions and on shouting slogans which are insulting to the feelings of the pilgrims and contrary to the teachings of Islam. [passage omitted]

We are not the only ones who have difficulty understanding the puzzles of Iranian policy. It is falsely being claimed that this policy stems from the so-called Islamic revolution. The entire world is nearing the point of losing patience with this foolish policy, which is based on falsehoods. This policy tries to justify the crime of interference in the affairs of others in the name of religion and Islam and to justify the desire for hegemony and domination through Islam, the religion of truth that has nothing to do with the Iranian regime and its media.

Under cover of religion, the Iranian media has broadcast false reports about events in the Arab and Islamic worlds or in Egypt itself. The false Iranian media claimed a few days ago that the Egyptian people have organized demonstrations in several cities in Upper Egypt against what they claimed is the danger which Egyptian Islamists face at the hands of the Egyptian regime. All this is false and fabricated, and is far removed from the truth. All the Upper Egypt cities are witnesses to what is happening, and to the fact that nothing of what Tehran claimed to have happened is true. These claims by the Iranian propaganda trumpets against Egypt or other Arab and Islamic states are designed to achieve two extremely serious goals: The first is to spread the Iranian influence under cover of Islam in all parts of the Arab and Islamic worlds. These are firm objectives and need no proof. The Tehran authorities and their media must ask themselves: Why did Algeria break off diplomatic relations with Tehran? The second is to foil the newly born democratic experiences in the Arab and Islamic worlds by undermining security through the use of terrorists hiding behind the cover of religion. Islam has nothing to do with the ideology of exporting revolution and attacking the security and sovereignty of other peoples. Islam has nothing to do with the subversive ideology which Iran is trying to spread by various means. The misleading Iranian media want to spread fear in the Arab and Islamic states and undermine their stability, because democracy is the worst enemy of anarchy, totalitarianism, and dictatorship. The Iranian media's ultimate hope is to destroy all democracies in the Arab and Islamic worlds. [passage omitted]

The time has come for the Arab and Islamic worlds to rise up to expose the lies of the Iranian media and the illusion spread by Tehran about exporting the revolution. The responsibility of the Arab and Islamic worlds demands action to save the Iranian people from the ugliest and most dangerous deception which is being carried out in the name of Islam.

Paper Views Aims of Velayati's Gulf Tour

NC0506061193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2051 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jun (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM has emphasized that the Iranian aircraft raids on certain areas in Iraq under the pretext of bombarding the opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq centers at the same time Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati was touring the Gulf countries were not a coincidence but a deliberate act to intimidate the Gulf countries. In an editorial in the Saturday [5 June] edition, the paper says that the Gulf countries have recently become alert to the danger of exporting the Iranian revolution by sponsoring groups that exercise violence and terrorism. Sudan has been the advance base for operations of infiltration and sabotage.

AL-AHRAM noted the success of President Husni Mubarak's recent tour of the Gulf in emphasizing these facts, prompting the Gulf countries to take measures to prevent funds from reaching the extremist movements that work under the guise of charitable societies. The paper stressed that Velayati's visit to the Gulf came after Iran realized that Mubarak's tour was a success and tried to mar the visit, or at least to tip the balance in favor of Iran. The paper said that the Iranian attempts will not succeed because of the close relations between Egypt and the Gulf countries and the increased importance of the Egyptian weight in warding off dangers in view of existing alliances and previous experience.

Islam Not Agreeable to 'Self-Seeking' West

NC0506084893 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 29 May 93 p 6

["Readings" column by Kamal 'Abd-al-Ra'uf]

[Text] I hope that the Arab and Islamic countries will learn an unforgettable lesson from the Bosnian tragedy. This painful experience has proven that the major powers are merely self-seeking. When they speak about principles day and night and when the BBC and the Voice of America defend human rights, they mean something else entirely. Had Kuwaiti human rights—trampled by Saddam—not been mixed with the smell of oil, Bush would not have acted or even bothered to make a single telephone call to amass those huge armed forces to expel Saddam and put him under siege so that he would not threaten the West's vital interests in the Gulf.

The second lesson that the Arab and Islamic countries must keep in mind is that Westerners do not find Islam and Muslims agreeable. Although they smile and talk pleasantly to you, they have public and secret institutes in Germany, Britain, and France to study all current movements in the Islamic world and formulate a strategy to destroy them, contain them, or benefit from them in line with the adage: "If you cannot beat them, join them."

Had things happened in reverse in Bosnia-Herzegovina and it was the Muslims who were besieging, bombarding, and denying food supplies to the Serbs and Croats, Europe would have adopted a different stand. NATO chiefs, who are now dragging their feet and refuse to help the Muslims, would have hastened to draw up plans and move fleets to attack the Muslim aggressors and rescue the Serbs and Croats. I did not invent this argument. It appeared in a statement by Senator Joseph Biden, a major U.S. politician and member of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He had become "disgusted" by Clinton's vacillation, by European hypocrisy, and by the honeyed statements made by European capitals while waiting for the Serbs and Croats to finish massacring the Muslims. Before this conscientious senator spoke up, the iron lady Mrs. Thatcher harangued the British Government for its silence on the bloody crimes the Serbs were perpetrating against women and children. European television stations have been showing pictures of these crimes for more than a year now but this scandalous situation has not bothered the conscience of a single European leader.

It is important for small countries, particularly Islamic countries, to remember that the West does not act except to protect its interests. If a Muslim nation faces a domestic crisis or a civil war, the West will certainly exploit this conflict and back the side that is willing to give it a larger share of that nation's resources. Indeed the West might encourage such divisive movements so that the existing government will feel continuously threatened, purchase more and more weapons, ask for Western forces to defend it, as Kuwait now does, or deposit its money in Western banks to guard against coups d'etat.

If anyone doubts my words, let him study the story of the rise and fall of the shah of Iran. Here ends the lesson.

'Terrorist' Bank Transfers, Infiltration Routes Uncovered

NC0506074793 Cairo MENA in English 0707 GMT 5 Jun 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—Security bodies have monitored part of the funds sent to terrorist groups from abroad to execute crimes in Egypt. The transfer of funds in foreign currency, dollars and sterling, has been under close watch and it was discovered that money is sent from the United States, several European countries, Canada, and three Arab countries to one of the major banks in downtown and its branch in one of the governorates in Upper Egypt, the Cairo press reported. Investigations have proven that more than $100,000 was transferred with the aim of financing the extremists' activities. At the same time, security forces have located ten tracks and corridors on the borders between Egypt, Libya, and Sudan that are used by infiltrators into Egypt. A strict plan will be applied to prevent infiltrators into the country, the papers said.

AFP: 400 Militants To Appear in Court

NC0506123093 Paris AFP in English 1142 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, June 5 (AFP)—Four hundred Muslim fundamentalists, arrested mainly in the Cairo slum of Imbabah in December and January, will stand trial in the capital's high military court, court sources said Saturday [5 June].

They are charged with membership in the outlawed al-Jama'ah al- Islamiyah [Islamic Group] organization and some are accused of murdering policemen while others are charged with torching video clubs, the sources said.

Most of the fundamentalists were entrenched in Imbabah, which until the massive police sweeps in December, was considered one of their main strongholds in the capital.

A thousand militants were questioned after the sweeps.

The key defendants are two "emirs", or leaders, of Imbabah: 'Abd-al-Jayid al-Qamash and Jabr Rayyan, known as Shaykh Jabr, they said.

Fundamentalists killed three policemen in Imbabah and the neighboring district of Bulaq Dakrur in December and January.

The trial of the 400 extremists, whose date has not been set, will be added to those of 700-800 other Muslim fundamentalists facing military tribunals in the next few weeks.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, drawing on emergency laws imposed in October 1981 after the assassination of president Anwar al-Sadat, last year decided to

refer all trials of fundamentalists to military tribunals, which hand down stiffer and swifter sentences than civilian courts.

Egypt has meanwhile tightened security along its border with the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip to bar the infiltration of Palestinian Muslim militants, police sources in Cairo said Saturday. [passage omitted]

Court Approves Establishment of Social Justice Party

NC0606170293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1616 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jun (MENA)—The Higher Administrative Court's Parties Affairs Panel today approved the establishment of the Social Justice Party [hizb al-'adalah al-ijtima'iyah] and revoked the decision made by the head of the Parties Affairs Committee to reject the party's establishment. The court was examining a lawsuit filed by Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Al, acting on behalf of the founding members of the party.

Citing the reasons for its verdict, the court explained that the party's program contains policies and methods that include several new ideas that mark the party's program from those of the existing parties, adding that the program will enrich political and partisan life in Egypt. The court noted that the Parties Affairs Committee, after having examined some parts of the party's program, concluded that the program did not have anything outstanding to offer, but the fact is that the party has drafted a comprehensive plan on how to overcome some of the problems in society. Accordingly, the court noted that the decision by the Parties Affairs Committee to reject the establishment of the party has no legal foundation and is in violation of the law and the Constitution.

The court concluded that the party's program is in line with the law, is not in conflict with the basic pillars of the society, and does not violate the Egyptian Constitution.

Libya

OAU Secretary General Blames West for Crisis

LD0606212093 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Brother Salim Ahmed Salim, secretary general of the OAU, arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Upon his arrival, the OAU secretary general gave a statement to a JANA correspondent in which he said that his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah falls within the framework of the continuous consultations on issues which are of interest to the African continent. The Great Jamahiriyah is an important and active member in the OAU, he stated.

He pointed out that what the Great Jamahiriyah is subjected to within the context of the crisis between it and the Western countries is an attempt by the Western countries to control the African continent and return to it. He pointed out that the OAU is exerting efforts to solve this crisis and lift the coercive measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah.

Concerning the conflicts witnessed by the African continent, the brother OAU secretary general said that the OAU is exerting efforts in order to find solutions to these conflicts and put an end to the cases of tension in the African continent, particularly in Somalia, Angola, Liberia, and South Africa.

Paper on Reported Move To Lift Boycott of Israel

LD0606183793 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1645 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 6 Jun (JANA)—The AL-JAMAHIRIYAH newspaper, published by the Public Press Establishment, said today that our hopes are pinned on the Arab masses, who should now act to articulate their status and life with some force and effectiveness to take revenge on traitors and renegades.

In an article entitled "Recklessness Breeds Treason," the paper says that in the latest developments in Arab-Zionist trade relations, international news agencies have carried a news item—undoubtedly not the last of its kind—that a certain Arab government is to break the Arab boycott of Israeli companies and products. It has also been reported that a certain Arab government has decided not to add to the blacklist any Zionist firms or companies not already listed. These reports that are being spread and heard day and night do not astonish us at all ... and the fault lies not in our ears or reception equipment, but is, first of all, attributable to the state of retrogression and defeat that has fatally befallen the Arab situation to the extent that it is no longer capable of showing pain and agony or even feeling them. [passage omitted]

Opposition Assails al-Qadhdhafi in Message to King Fahd

LD0606193393 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1735 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] London, 6 Jun (SPA)—Bashir Muhammad al-Rabti, chairman of the Libyan National Organization and speaker of the former Federal National Assembly, has sent a cable of thanks to the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, in the name of the masses of the Libyan people. The text reads as follows:

Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, may God safeguard you:

In the name of the masses of the Libyan people, we thank you for the care shown by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under your patronage and guidance to the thousands of Libyans who have headed for the hajj this year and

whom God has graciously enabled to perform this duty with ease, thanks to the facilities which exceeded expectations.

As we convey to you our thanks and appreciation, we inform you that Libyans deem themselves far above the level to which the ruler of Libya has sunk, for they know that al-Qadhdhafi has always been the head of the spear in the chest of the Arabs and the Muslims, that he declared the hajj (?void), transgressed against the sunnah [ways] of the prophet, repeatedly prevented Libyans from going on the pilgrimage, used unbecoming adjectives to describe the Ashraf [descendants of Muhammad's family], and tried to use the hajj to spread terrorism and publicize his green book; and all this before the air embargo against Libya. And here he is today using the hajj as a pretext for attacking the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and bestowing legitimacy on Israel's occupation of holy Jerusalem in return for vouching for him and dropping the demand for him to be brought before justice, thus sacrificing the honor of Libya, that of its sons and of its long struggle, and the honor and interest of all Arabs and Muslims.

Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, we beseech God to assist us in getting rid of this agent who has become a burden on Libya and a mark of shame on the forehead of the Arabs and the Muslims. We are certain in the knowledge that your wisdom will absolve the Libyan people from the behavior and transgressions of this apostate.

Please accept our greetings and the greetings of the believer sons of Libya.

[signed] Bashir Muhammad al-Rabti, chairman of the Libyan National Organization, former speaker of the Federal National Assembly

Morocco

Iran's Besharati Arrives With Message

LD0606215493 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Excerpt] This afternoon, 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, first deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, arrived at the head of an important delegation on a visit to Morocco.

In a statement to the press, given on his arrival at Sale Airport in Rabat, the Iranian first deputy foreign minister said that he is carrying a message from Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to His Majesty King Hassan II. He added that Iran and Morocco share deep-rooted historic ties and mutual understanding, and that he is confident that his visit to Morocco will serve to improve and strengthen the relations between the two countries. He stressed that the exchange of ambassadors between the two countries is the best proof of the determination of their respective leaderships to extend their ties. [passage omitted]

Premier Receives Mozambican Foreign Minister

LD0406170493 Rabat MAP in English 1232 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] Rabat, Jun. 04 (MAP)—Moroccan Prime Minister, Mohammed Karim Lambrani, received here, Thursday [3 June], Mozambican Foreign Minister, Pascoal Mocumbi, who handed him a message addressed to King Hassan II from President of Mozambique, Joaquim Chissano.

Lamrani and Mocumbi have, on the occasion, reviewed the situation in Eastern Africa and examined possibilities of developing bilateral cooperation in fields of mutual concern.

Earlier, Mocumbi met Minister of State for Cooperation and Foreign Affairs, Abdellatif Filali.

Sudan

Minister Asks Egypt To Withdraw Forces

EA0406172393 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has called on the Egyptian authorities to withdraw their forces from the Hala'ib triangle and return to the status quo before the convention of the OAU summit to start on 28 June. He said the withdrawal of Egyptian forces will pave the way to settling the differences between the two countries and returning relations to their natural position. He described the current state of Sudanese-Egyptian relations as sad and bad.

He called on the Egyptian side to resort to wisdom and dialogue and to put aside the option of military force and provocation, which is rejected by Sudan. He added that the OAU has affirmed its rejection of the use of force in settling conflicts. He called for commitment to this principle, for rebuilding and cleansing Arab relations, for removing shortcomings, and for solidarity.

Paper Cited on Egyptian Military Movements

EA0606182393 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Khartoum, 6 June (SUNA)—Today's Sudanese newspaper AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH reports that the Egyptian authorities arrested Captain Mamduh Amir of the Egyptian Navy after a visit to Egyptian Armed Forces camps on Sudanese territory in the Hala'ib area by Brigadier Ashur, a senior Egyptian intelligence officer. The paper said that the arrest of Capt. Mamduh followed his inquiries into the significance of the Egyptian presence in the Hala'ib area and the dismay of the officers and other ranks over the unjustified escalation brought to bear by the Egyptian Government against the Sudanese people.

The paper said the Egyptian forces are persisting in their movements in the direction of Sudanese territory, particularly those of the Marines and the artillery, while Egyptian Air Force helicopters are continuing reconnaissance flights south of the 22d parallel. The paper said the Egyptian Marines and artillery are erecting ground fortifications and communications networks in the Abu-Ramad area, [word indistinct] and the Hala'ib triangle.

The paper said a number of shaykhs, headmen, and village chiefs of the Busharah [tribe] had confirmed that the Egyptian authorities had tried to bribe them into cooperating with them. The paper said that the local people are currently trying to form a front to confront the Egyptian aggression. It said the Sudanese fishermen have refused to accept the Egyptian identity cards the Egyptian authorities were trying to distribute to them and are maintaining their Sudanese citizenship.

Government Rejects UN Observer, Safe Havens

EA0406180593 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1315 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] Sudan has confirmed its absolute rejection of the idea of establishing so-called dimilitarized zones in the south of the country and of the recent appointment of a UN observer for humanitarian affairs to observe the delivery of relief aid.

Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, official spokesman of the government delegation at the Abuja talks, said that Sudan has sent an official note to the United Nations explaining its complete rejection of both the appointment of a UN observer and the concept of safe havens. He said the selection of the observer, his identity, and his mandate to exercise authority was supposed to have been decided in consultation with the Sudanese Government.

He said this rejection arises from national sovereignty and the desire for noninterference in Sudan's internal affairs. He pointed out that Sudan will send similar protest notes to the Arab League and the OAU.

Minister Reaffirms Commitment to Relief Delivery

EA0606175593 Khartoum SUNA in English 1045 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Khartoum, 6 June (SUNA)—Foreign Minister Husayn Abu- Salih Saturday [5 June] reaffirmed the Sudan's commitment to all agreements pertinent to the delivery of relief supplies to the affected areas, particularly in the south. Speaking at a press conference at the Foreign Ministry, Dr. Abu-Salih said the agreements, which includes those signed with rebel movements in Nairobi, the foreign voluntary agencies operating in Sudan, and with the Red Cross have already been applied.

The foreign minister announced that the Sudan has already explained its stand as regards the appointment of a UN special envoy on relief work in Sudan through a message it had sent to the UN secretary general, saying that the message detailed the record of the relations between the Sudan and the international organization which has witnessed positive developments. The Sudan will spare no effort to extend every possible assistance to help deliver food to the affected people, Abu-Salih stressed.

Meanwhile, he stated that the Sudan approves in principle UN contribution to humanitarian affairs in Sudan, but it has been expecting consultations before the appointment of a special envoy for the Sudan affairs and determining his duties and jurisdiction.

Abu-Salih noted that the outlaw Garang recently suggested appointment of a relief coordinator while he was en route to the U.S. Dr. Abu-Salih noted that the Sudan's reservations towards appointment of the special envoy was not only based on ignoring its consultation but also came as a result of the statements made by some circles that the task of the UN envoy entails political affairs that affect the independence and sovereignty of the Sudan.

The foreign minister has affirmed Sudan's rejection to the idea of setting up safe havens, on grounds that it violates the national sovereignty and represents sheer intervention of Sudan's domestic affairs.

According to Dr. Abu-Salih the government has been standing in favour of ending the tribal fighting among the outlaws factions in the south, asserting that the idea of creating safe havens is rejected because it violates the sovereignty of Sudan.

He pointed out that the Sudan is committed to the cease-fire in the south towards paving the way for constructive peace dialogue and negotiations. The government spokesman for the peace talks, Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj, who also spoke at the press conference, described the safe havens idea as [word indistinct] of the scenario to interfere in the domestic affairs in the Sudan.

Minister Denies Allowing Libyan Plane Overflight

EA0506205693 Khartoum SUNA in English 1635 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 5 June (SUNA)—The Sudan has renewed its commitment to the UN's resolutions, including the decision on banning flights to and from Libya.

Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn [Sulayman] Abu-Salih has denied what has been reported by the Libyan pilgrims during their press conference in Cairo, after their return from Al-Quds [Jerusalem], that the Sudanese authorities had given permission to their plane to cross the Sudanese space.

He asserted that the Sudan Government did not allow a Libyan plane to cross the Sudanese space, describing these statements as "untrue". [passage omitted]

Command Council Chairman Briefed on UK Visit

EA0606180793 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, met today at the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers Bishop Gabriel Rorech, minister of state at the Foreign Ministry. Bishop Rorech stated that during the meeting they discussed the results of the bishop's recent visit to the United Kingdom, during which he met the archbishop of Canterbury, the papal nuncio in Britain, and a number of members of the British House of Lords and the House of Commons. He said he briefed them on the extent of religious coexistence in Sudan and the government's efforts to seek a final solution to the problem of the south and to achieve peace.

He said he discussed with the British Foreign Office ways of improving relations between Sudan and the United Kingdom. At the end of his statement he said his visit had been successful and achieved all its objectives.

The meeting was attended by Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih Ahmad, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, and Minister of Presidential Affairs Awad Ahmad al-Jaz.

Opposition Group Denounces 'Repression'

NC0506150393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—The Sudanese National Democratic Grouping [SNDG] has denounced the Sudanese regime's policy of repression, terrorism, and confiscation of property. In a statement it issued today, the SNDG said there is no salvation for Sudan without the restoration of democratic life, pluralism, and respect for human rights.

The statement urged the international community and international and regional organizations to take all necessary measures to help the Sudanese masses in their endeavor and struggle for national unity, democracy, and freedom.

In its statement, the SNDG referred to the escalation of the wave of resentment against the ruling Islamic Front's regime in Sudan, the increasing isolation of the regime, and the stepping up of international pressure on this regime. All this has led to the collapse of the economic situation and caused harsh living conditions.

The SNDG denounced the ruling regime's behavior and its attempts to preoccupy the citizens with imaginary battles and rumors about a foreign invasion. It also denounced its attempts to escalate tension with sister Egypt on the pretext of its involvement in these imaginary battles.

Tunisia

Butrus-Ghali Praises Tunisian Rights Record

LD0506225893 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] President Ben Ali received UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali at Carthage Palace this morning. Foreign Affairs Minister Habib Ben Yahia was also present.

After the meeting Dr. Butrus-Ghali expressed his thanks to his excellency the president and the Tunisian Government for Tunisia's contribution to the United Nations with its troops which are participating in the peacekeeping operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, Cambodia, and the Western Sahara. He also expressed his abundant thanks to his excellency the president who, on the occasion of World Environment Day, stressed Tunisia's solidarity with the United Nations in its work in environmental matters.

After talking about Tunisia's contribution to the Rio Conference and its forthcoming contribution to the new organizations and committees set up to endeavor to defend the world environment, Dr. Butrus-Ghali expressed his appreciation for Tunisia's hosting of the African regional symposium on human rights last November. He mentioned our country's participation in the International Human Rights Conference which will be convened in Vienna in the next few days.

The UN secretary general added: I would also like to express my thanks for the efforts exerted by Tunisia to defend human rights and basic liberties. He described these efforts as a positive contribution to the joint action within the UN framework and in the numerous international technical organizations working with the United Nations in this field.

Regarding his meeting with his excellency the president, he said that the talks dealt with the most important problems to which the United Nations is working to find a peaceful settlement. These, he stated, included the Western Saharan issue on which he had talks in Morocco and Algeria, the Bosnian question and the efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the situation arising from the break-up of Yugoslavia into a number of small states, and Cambodia, where Tunisian troops have contributed to establishing peace. We have succeeded to a great extent in this, he added, since the elections took place and we are presently in the process of forming a new government and drawing up a new constitution as a result of these elections, with a view to establishing security and peace in that country.

Dr. Butrus-Ghali added that the discussion also covered the situation in Mozambique, Angola, Rwanda, and a number of Arab African countries. He explained that these subjects would be dealt with at the Organization of African Unity summit conference which will be convened at the the end of this month in Cairo.

At the end of his statement, Dr. Butrus-Ghali stressed that the United Nations does not confine its concern to issues of security and peacekeeping alone. It also conerns itself with other issues such as economic and social cooperation, the environment, defense of human rights, and women's rights. He said that the United Nations is a framework for joint action, dealing with issues of the future and working for peace in the world.

UN Secretary General Departs

LD0606203093 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Excerpts] UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali left Tunis at noon today following a two-day official visit to our country, during which he met with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The secretary general was seen off at Tunis-Carthage International Airport by Foreign Affairs Minister Habib Ben Yahya, the wali, and the mayor of Tunis. Prior to his departure from Tunis, Dr. Butrus-Ghali made a statement at the VIP lounge at the airport to Tunis- Afrique news agency, at the beginning of which he stressed the fruitful talks he had during this visit with President Ben Ali and the foreign affairs minister. [passage omitted]

Dr. Butrus-Ghali also said that his visit to Tunis was an opportunity for meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. He pointed out that his talks with the Palestinian leader were very positive and dealt with the progress of the peace negotiations currently taking place in Washington and the importance of continuing the negotiation process.

He noted that the meeting dealt also with the role of the United Nations in the Palestinian question. In this connection, he declared the appointment of a special envoy of the UN secretary general, who has been entrusted with following up the Palestinian issue and participating in the multilateral negotiations that he said that they aimed at finding a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue based on Security Council resolutions Nos. 242 and 338. [passage omitted]

Cote d'Ivoire Foreign Minister Pays Visit

LD0606214793 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] The foreign affairs minister of the Cote d'Ivoire is as from today paying an official visit to Tunisia. During the visit, which will last for three days, he will head his country's delegation to the third session of the joint Tunisian-Cote d'Ivoire committee for cooperation.

The Cote d'Ivoire official described relations between the two countries as excellent, saying it was Tunisia that supported his country's entry to the United Nations. He pointed out the similarities between the Tunisian and Cote d'Ivoire approaches at the international level, in particular at the levels of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity.

Western Sahara

UN Secretary General Meets Abdelaziz in Tindouf

LD0406202493 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] Within the framework of his Maghreb tour, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali today arrived in and is visiting the town of Tindouf, where he met Saharan leaders and discussed with them means of implementing the UN resolution on holding the referendum in the Western Sahara.

Concerning this meeting, let us listen to a dispatch from our reporter in Tindouf, Said Brahimi:

[Brahimi] Just a few moments ago as he was returning to Algiers after his talks with Saharan leaders, Mr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali made a statement in which he said that his talks with Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz basically focused on issues related to the application of UN Security Council Resolution 809 on the procedures for the referendum in the Western Sahara. Butrus-Ghali added that he put forward a compromise solution to the Saharan leaders regarding the procedures that must be followed in the forthcoming referendum in the Western Sahara. This is the same compromise which he also put forward to the authorities in Rabat during his visit to Morocco in the middle of this week.

It should be recalled that Mr. Butrus-Ghali arrived at Tindouf airport today at noon. He then went immediately to the headquarters of the UN mission charged with monitoring the cease-fire in Western Sahara, accompanied by Mr. Yaqub Khan, his representative in the Western Saharan conflict.

He then met Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz for talks which lasted almost an hour and a half.

Reaction to Meeting

LD0506140093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Excerpts] The compromise that was revealed yesterday in Tindouf by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on the settlement of the Saharan question constitutes the event of the day, even if some of the details of the broad lines of this compromise have not yet been divulged. A copy of the compromise document was handed by the UN secretary general to the Saharan authorities during his talks with the latter. The reply of the Saharan officials to this solution is expected during the next few days. In the first official Saharan reaction, Bachir Mustapha Sayed, the number two man in the Polisario Front, made the following statement to the national radio regarding the UN-Saharan talks. The statement was recorded by the radio correspondent to the area, Noureddin Mousadek:

[Begin Sayed recording] It was a frank and very useful meeting. It first allowed the disbursement of the clouds of doubt and the elimination of the atmosphere of accusations. It also allowed a frank and very useful discussion. At the end of the meeting, the secretary general handed to the Saharan side a document; here it is in French. Its title concerns the implementation of the measures relating to the determination of the identity that is attached to the secretary general's report of December [date indistinct] 1991.

I have read this document once, and I regard the thoughts it entails and the contents of this document as very important. The production of the document has been made, thanks to a concerted effort. To reply to it and to pass judgment on it, however, must come following several readings and necessary care and attention. The Saharan side—the Saharan authorities—will inform the secretary general of their initial reaction in Vienna—God willing—when they will attend the international gathering on human rights, which will be attended by the UN secretary general. [passage omitted].

I do not believe, and it cannot be said, that the document that has been presented has tackled the problem, but I believe that it is a document that deserves respect. We will study it and give our opinions as well as our questions and requests for clarification. We have the will and the resolve to find this compromise and to help the UN secretary general to make this mission successful. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Kuwait

Bush Assassination Plot Suspects Go On Trial 5 Jun

LD0406181493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Report by Anwar al-Gharib]

[Text] Kuwait, 4 Jun (KUNA)—Some 14 defendents will stand tomorrow before the State Security Court charged with involvement in a plot to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait last April.

The terrorist network involved in the plot consists of 17 persons. Twelve of these are Iraqis with one still at large, four are Kuwaitis, and one is of an unidentified nationality.

An official at the Justice Ministry said that more than 60 foreign journalists will attend the opening session tomorrow.

Presented before the court, to be presided over by Councellor Salah al-Fahd, there will be more than 600 pages of investigation in addition to other documents and evidence.

Approximately 12 defendents could face the death sentence if convicted with the charge of plotting to assassinate Bush.

Members of the gang infilterated into Kuwait in a jeep and another car loaded with explosives to detonate a number of vital places in the country and to assassinate the former President with a booby-trapped car.

The Kuwaiti public prosecutor interrogated the accused regardless of their nationalities in accordance with the international law on human rights.

The court delegated eight lawyers to defend the accused. Among these is 'Abd al-'Aziz Tahir, who will defend the first accused Ra'd al-Asadi.

The Interior Ministry said that al-Asadi is an agent in Iraqi intelligence who entered the country with a forged Kuwaiti driver's license, and was provided with explosives to carry out subversive acts in commercial and other centers.

As for the second accused, Wali al-Ghazali, he intended to detonate the booby-trapped car, and failing this, intended to blow himself up near Bush in a suicide operation. [passage indistinct]

Death Penalty Sought for Suspects

NC0506074693 Paris AFP in English 0725 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Kuwait City, June 5 (AFP)—Kuwait's attorney general on Saturday [5 June] called for the death penalty in the opening minutes of the trial of 11 Iraqis and a Kuwaiti accused of plotting to kill former U.S. President George Bush in April.

The men are accused of trying to carry out an Iraqi plot to kill Bush during his visit to Kuwait in April, Attorney General Muhammad al-Bannay has said.

They are also accused of attempting to carry out bomb attacks as well as collaboration with the Iraqi intelligence services.

The trial opened Saturday at the Kuwaiti State Security Court.

"The trial will last at least two months because the Kuwaiti authorities want to ensure good proceedings which would be free from any political motivations," a court source told AFP on Friday.

Defendents Confirm Mukhabarat Involvement

LD0506133393 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1225 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Jun—The first and second defendants in the case of the attempted assassination of former U.S. President George Bush have confirmed that the Iraqi mukhabarat [security service] had contrived and planned the assassination of President Bush during his visit to Kuwait last April. The other 12 defendants have denied the charges made against them. This came as the State Security Court examined the case today, which involved 17 defendants, most of whom are Iraqi nationals.

The first defendant, called Ra'd 'Abd-al-Amir al-Asadi, said that a man working for the Iraqi mukhabarat approached him in a cafe owned by the defendant and used as a center for smuggling banned goods into Kuwait and asked him to smuggle into Kuwait the second defendant, Wali 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Ghazali, and whatever arms and explosives he would take with him.

Fourteen people accused of involvement in an attempt to assassinate the former U.S. president at the instigation of the Iraqi Government are appearing before the State Security Court.

The defendant added that the Iraqi mukhabarat official had given him 10 explosive devices for use in markets and trading places, 5,000 Iraqi dinars, and three cartons of whiskey to carry out the operation.

The defendant said that he had no knowledge of the precise nature of the second defendant's mission in Kuwait because the mukhabarat official had asked him to get the second defendant to the University of Kuwait and leave him there. He pointed out that the second defendant was driving a jeep, and it became obvious to him later that the jeep was booby-trapped with explosives.

Death Sentence Passed on Head of Pro-Iraqi Government

LD0506160193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1529 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Jun (KUNA)— The State Security Court today passed a death sentence in absentia on 'Ala' Husayn al-Khafaji, the head of the so-called provisional government during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

The Iraqi regime, following the invasion of Kuwait, installed what it described as a provisional Kuwaiti Government in order to justify this invasion. 'Ala' Husayn—a Kuwaiti national—headed that government. The state prosecution accused him of having violated the country's sovereignty and independence.

Prosecutor General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hayy al-Bannay, in a statement given previously to KUNA, described the person called 'Ala' Husayn al-Khafaji as a hired agent of the tyrannical Iraqi regime. This was proved against him and testified by his colleagues and by the officers of the general administration of the state security and intelligence; it was also proved by the rest of the evidence and proofs revealed by the investigations. Al-Bannay said when referring 'Ala' Husayn to the State Security Court that alone of all his colleagues 'Ala' Husayn made efforts and contacted the Iraqi authorities of his own free will in order to realize the sinful aims of the enemy in violating the country's independence and territorial integrity and to harm its political position and pan-Arab interests. He added that while abroad 'Ala' Husayn also transmitted false and tendentious reports, statements, and rumors about the country's internal situation in a manner that weakened the prestige of the state. In return he received sums of money and other material benefits and he moved his family to Baghdad in order to reside there.

Collaborators Receive Death Sentence

LD0606154393 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1426 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] The State Security Court today passed death sentences on five Iraqi defendants found guilty of collaborating with the Iraqi occupation troops during the occupation of Kuwait. One of the defendants has also been asked to pay 9 million Kuwaiti dinars for the material damage he caused the country.

The state security prosecution charged Hasim Sabhan, 37, 'Abd-al-Khalif Naji, 40, 'Abd-al-Wahid 'Abd-al-Shah, 32, Amjad Ibrahim, 28, and 'Abd-al-Salam 'Abd-al-Karim, 63, the five defendants, with acting in the interest of the Iraqi regime to weaken the citizens' morale and reducing their strength to resist by participating in the activities of the Iraqi Ba'th Party, which were aimed at entrenching the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. They were also charged with taking sums of money from a hostile party with a view to harming the country's national interests.

The prosecution also charged the first four defendants with joining the so-called "Iraqi People's Army" in Kuwait and with obtaining and possessing weapons and ammunition.

Regarding the fifth defendant, who was asked by the court to pay a fine of 9 million Kuwaiti dinars, the prosecution charged him with informing the occupation authorities about the location of the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company warehouses for spare parts and enabling the occupation authorities to appropriate the spare parts.

According to the court sentence, of which KUNA has received a copy, the defendant 'Abd-al-Salam 'Abd-al-Karim is compelled to return 4.5 million Kuwaiti dinars and pay a fine of an equal amount. He is also dismissed from the post of administrator which he held at the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The court also imposed a fine of 2,000 Kuwaiti dinars on all the aforementioned defendants for the charges levelled against them. [sentence as received]

In the same case, the court acquitted two Iraqi defendants of the charges against them and sentenced another two to prison terms. The state security prosecutor had charged defendants Malik Falih, 41 years, Nadhim Ya'qub, 31 years, 'Adil Ya'qub, and Majid Sadiq with joining the so-called Iraqi Popular Army and with possessing weapons and ammunition. He had also charged the defendant 'Adil Ya'qub with seizing citizens' houses during the occupation.

The court acquitted the first and second defendants while passing in absentia sentences of 10 years imprisonment against the accused Majid Sadiq and two years imprisonment against the accused 'Adil Yusuf. Yusuf was acquitted of the charge of joining the so-called Iraqi Popular Army.

New Chief of Staff, Deputy Appointed

LD0506222193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1915 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 5 Jun (KUNA)— Minister of Defense Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim has said that he discussed the budget for defense reinforcement with the finance and economic committee in the National Assembly meeting today. [passage omitted]

The minister referred to a decree by the amir on the appointment of Major General 'Ali al-Mu'min as chief of staff, as well as the promotion of Brigadier Fahd al-Amir to the rank of major general and his appointment as deputy chief of staff. They will meet his highness the amir tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Details of National Budget Estimates Reported

LD0606100893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2215 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 5 Jun (KUNA)—Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister of Kuwait, referred the draft law on the budget of ministries and government administrations for the 1993-94 fiscal year to the National Assembly on Wednesday 26 May instead of the set date of 1 May.

The budget revenue for 27 ministries and government administrations for the 93-94 fiscal year was estimated at 2,713,681,000 dinars. Expenditures were estimated at 3.9 billion dinars and the amount allocated [as received] was set at 271,368,100 dinars.

Expenditure and allocations exceeded revenue by 1,457,687,100 dinars.

The estimated revenues for the 1992-93 fiscal year reached 2.218 billion dinars while expenditures were estimated at 2,577,474,1000 dinars.

The following is the income and estimated expenditure of ministries and government adminstrations for the 93-94 fiscal year according to the draft law which was referred to the National Assembly at a date violating Article 40 of the Assembly's internal statute which states that the government must produce the draft of its general budget two months before the state's general budget comes into effect on 1 July—that means on 1 May of each year:

1. Allocations of the head of state: 8 million dinars.

2. The estimated revenue of the amir's office is 8,000 dinars and estimated expenditure is 18,831,000 dinars. [figures as received] [passage omitted]

4. Council of Ministers: Income 7,799,000 dinars and expenditure 14,15,000 dinars. [passage omitted]

7. Planning Ministry: revenue 271,000 dinars and expenditure 21,502,000 dinars. [passage omitted]

9. Foreign Ministry: revenue 774,000 dinars and expenditure 32,858,000 dinars.

10. Finance Ministry, the general administration: revenue 44,230,000 dinars and expenditure 19,199,000 dinars.

11. Finance Ministry, general accounts: revenue 26,62,000 dinars and expenditure 1,306,606,000 dinars. [passage omitted]

13. Ministry of Trade and Industry: revenue 1,72,000 dinars and expenditure 18,755,000 dinars.

14. Ministry of Justice: revenue 8,500,000 dinars and expenditure 20,744,000 dinars.

15. Interior Ministry: revenue 17,008,000 dinars and expenditure 266,869,000 dinars.

16. Ministry of Defense: Projected revenue 722,000 dinars and expenditure 478,790,000 dinars.

17. The National Guard: revenue 210,000 dinars and expenditure 55,653,000 dinars.

18. Ministry of Education: revenue 3,529,000 dinars and expenditure 320,60,000 dinars.

19. Ministry of Higher Education: revenue 59,500 dinars and expenditure 19,381,000 dinars.

20. Ministry of Health: revenue 3,180,000 dinars and expenditure 273,596,000 dinars.

21. Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor: revenue 640,000 dinars and expenditure 84,35,000 dinars.

22. Ministry of Information: revenue 3,047,000 dinars and expenditure 58,488,000 dinars. [passage omitted]

24. Oil Ministry: revenue 2,419,833,000 dinars and expenditure 35,054,000 dinars.

25. Ministry of Transport (telephones and telegraphs department): revenue 66,690,000 dinars dinars and expenditure 57,340,000 dinars.

26. Ministry of Transport (post department): revenue 5 million dinars and expenditure 15,990,000 dinars.

27. Ministry of Electricity and Water: revenue 52,910,000 dinars and expenditure 252,678,000 dinars.

28. Ministry of Public Works: revenue 1.4 million dinars and expenditure 106,998,000 dinars. [passage omitted]

29. The General Administration for Civil Aviation: revenue 3,560,000 dinars and expenditure 13,070,000 dinars.

United Arab Emirates

Minister Meets Palestinian Delegation, Affirms Support

JN0506163193 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1258 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Jun (WAKH)—Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs in the United Arab Emirates [UAE], met here at noon today with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, who is currently visiting Abu Dhabi at the head of a high-ranking Palestinian delegation.

The Emirates news agency said that Shaykh Hamdan affirmed to the Palestinian delegation the UAE's support for the right of the Palestinian people for self-determination and restoration of their legitimate rights.

He expressed the hope that the peace negotiations, which are sponsored by the United States and Russia, will lead to the restoration of Arab rights and to a comprehensive, just, and durable settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute and the Palestine question in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace.

Foreign Minister Accepts Invitation To Visit Tehran

LD0606163993 Tehran IRNA in English 1519 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, June 6, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has invited his UAE [United Arab Emirates] counterpart, Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid, to visit Iran.

The invitation was delivered to Hamdan Bin-Zayid by Iran's ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Hasan Aminiyan here today.

The UAE minister accepting the invitation expressed his hope to meet Velayati in Tehran soon.

Aminiyan and Hamdan Bin-Zayid also discussed bilateral relations and explored ways of broadening mutual ties.

Kurdish Radio Reports Attempt To Assassinate Saddam

NC0506163493 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] According to our reliable sources, there was an attempt to assassinate dictator Saddam Husayn on 17 May during his visit to one of his private residences. Our sources explained that a wire was placed across a road used by cars. The wire was attached to RPG launchers. Should a car pass and hit the wire, an RPG would be fired at the car and blow it up.

Our sources said the plan was uncovered after some cars passed and an RPG was fired at the first car [words indistinct].

Our sources said many of the men detailed with securing the area were arrested and some of them were executed, including an officer in the Republican Guard named Captain Hamud Muhammad al-Jawwadi, whose family is also known as [words indistinct]. Al-Jawwadi was accused of collaborating with the group that carried out the plan.

Saddam Receives Thank-You Cable From Jordan's Husayn

JN0706111193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a thank-you cable from his brother, King Husayn of Jordan, in reply to a cable his excellency had sent him earlier on the independence day of fraternal Jordan.

The cable says: I have received Your Excellency's cable on the independence day of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan with extreme thanks and gratitude.

While expressing my sincerest thanks and gratitude, in my name and on behalf of the people and government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, for your nicely worded congratulations, good wishes and noble fraternal feelings, I beseech God Almighty to grant Your Excellency continued good health and enable your fraternal people to achieve progress and prosperity. I also ask God to grant us success in our efforts to serve our two fraternal peoples and our glorious Arab nation.

Troops Said Massing in North; Iran's Forces on Border

NC0606145793 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] According to Western sources, tyrant Saddam Husayn's regime has massed large number of troops south of the air exclusion zone in northern Iraq in preparation for a major offensive against the Kurds.

Press reports, meanwhile, indicate that Iran has massed its forces on the border with Iraq to launch an offensive on the (?Iranian) Democratic Party of Kordestan inside Iraqi territories. The reports add that fighters of that party carry out attacks on Iranian positions from northern Iraq.

Oil Minister on 'Right to Kuwait,' Market Absence

JN0706093993 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 2 Jun 93 p 2

[Interview with Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti by Nirmin al-Mufti; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Mufti] Most Western writers and political analysts term the plot hatched against Iraq as an "oil war." The al-Sabah family in the Kuwait region were among the tools used to carry out the scheme.

[Al-Hiti] Historically, we have a right to Kuwait. It was carved up unjustly and aggressively. Also, its geological nature is an extension of the geology of southwestern al-Basrah. The practices of the al-Sabah family, who are imposed on Kuwait, are well known to everybody. Iraq will remain a very important state in the world energy balance in spite of all plots. This is an established fact that cannot be argued. The reason for this is that Iraq's oil is independent, which makes it even more valuable, given that the world has numbered states with independent oil. This fact is also important for countries seeking to ensure stable oil resources in the future. No doubt the aim of the aggression was to control oil resources. The intervention was based on this fact so that the United States can control important oil resources. Then, the United States can influence industrial nations and their economies and U.S. commodities can compete with theirs. Controlling the energy regions could have a direct impact in this regard.

[Al-Mufti] After the aggression, the United States took control of oil resources in the Gulf while the coalition states came out empty-handed.

[Al-Hiti] These states were used as tools only to achieve a strategic U.S. objective. Their role is over.

[Al-Mufti] But their troubles have started.

[Al-Hiti] There is no doubt about that. I think that industrial nations will soon seek closer ties with Iraq.

[Al-Mufti] How do you describe the effect of Iraq's absence from the international market because of the unjust blockade?

[Al-Hiti] This absence has driven some countries to increase their production to the maximum limits to cover the shortage. This will negatively affect their oil resources and reserves. This has also shaken the solid relations between oil-exporting states, since these states know that they do not have the right to market these extra quantities of oil. That is why they are always worried and know that one day they will have to reduce

production. The absence of Iraqi oil has also created confusion and lack of coordination and speculation among producers who are all trying to grab as much as they can of the stolen quota of Iraq in an unstable market. In addition, prices are not stable, and planning for the future is unclear. The increased production by these states has met the quantitative shortage in the market, but it has created an unhealthy situation. Everybody knows that they are taking something which is absolutely not theirs, and they will have to pay the price of these practices in the future. [passage omitted]

[Al-Mufti] Let us go back to oil in Iraq. By the end of the military aggression against Iraq, some foreign radios were reporting that, once the blockade is lifted Iraq will export its oil free for a very long time to pay its foreign debt.

[Al-Hiti] This is absolutely not true. Iraq's foreign debt is well known and the method of repayment is also agreed upon with creditor states as part of intermingled economic relations with these states. Many states owe others, and they do not have large oil reserves like Iraq. Yet these states still have active economies despite heavy pressures, including pressure pertaining to oil. The Iraqi economy does not depend solely on oil. Iraq is constantly increasing other resources. [passage omitted]

Commentary Ridicules Kuwait's 'Bar-Lev Line'

JN0606093893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jun (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH ridicules the determination of the rulers imposed on Kuwait to set up a line of defense modelled on the Bar-Lev Line along Kuwait's border with Iraq.

In a commentary published today on the so-called Kuwaiti Bar-Lev Line, the paper says: This scheme, coming as it does at this point in time, is not only aimed at plundering the Arabs' wealth and oil revenues, but also at creating an additional opportunity for activating the U.S. economy and Zionist investment endeavors.

The paper notes that Kuwait's establishing of a defensive line modelled on the Bar-Lev Line is not designed to ensure defense against Iraq, because Iraq has never been an enemy of Kuwaitis. The aim of this scheme, the paper contends, is to ensure protection for the rulers imposed on Kuwait so that they may persist with their conspiracies against the Iraqi economy and the Iraqis' livelihood.

The paper points out that this abject conspiratorial scheming, which brought about the current tragedy plaguing the region, provides further indisputable evidence that the rulers imposed on Kuwait are persisting with their ingrained enmity toward Iraq, and also with their conspiracies against the Iraqi people and the nation's destiny.

AL-THAWRAH notes that nowadays the Zionist Bar-Lev Line is mentioned only in the "history books" documenting defeats and setbacks.

Concluding its commentary, the paper doubts that the Kuwaiti Bar-Lev Line will restore the panic-ridden al-Sabah family's sense of security and peace.

UN Ballistics Expert Urges Compliance

NC0406151893 Paris AFP in English 1445 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, June 4 (AFP)—Ballistics arms expert Nikita Smidovich urged Iraq Friday [4 June] to accept a permanent mechanism to monitor and control its military industry, in line with a U.N. Security Council resolution.

"We need an official statement from the government of Iraq that they will accept their obligation under (Security Council) Resolution 715 and will implement the plan of long-term monitoring under that resolution," he told reporters at the start of a month-long inspection mission.

The resolution was adopted on October 11, 1991, but Baghdad has refused to accept such a permanent mechanism, saying it undermined Iraqi sovereignty.

Iraq has also refused to provide the United Nations with a list of its military suppliers, notably in the nuclear field, voicing fears the information could be conveyed to "hostile" intelligence services.

Smidovich said the United Nations still needed information on suppliers and operational details on the use of various types of weapons.

"We have to receive full disclosure of dual-purpose activity machines," he insisted.

The Russian expert is visiting Iraq for the ninth time. He is part of a 15-member team on the 57th inspection tour to monitor missile production and inspect new military installations.

The new U.N. team, including two inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency, is headed by Frenchman Patrice Palanque, a ballistic arms expert.

The experts will meet with Iraqi officials to discuss their program before setting off Saturday to the various sites.

"We're still missing important information concerning Iraq's past prohibited program," Smidovich said, adding that Resolution 715 obliges Iraq to provide the Security Council and special commission on disarmament with information on missiles with a range exceeding 50 kilometers (30 miles).

Smidovich also said he believed Iraq was capable of manufacturing ballistic missiles "with a range banned by the United Nations."

But a U.N. inspection team of ballistics experts concluded in May after a seven-week tour that Iraq was years away from regaining the long-range missile capability it enjoyed before the Gulf war.

American team leader Dennis Vincent said then he thought it would take Iraq several years to re-establish its pre-Gulf war capacity for producing long-range missiles.

Ports Being Prepared for End of 'Unjust Blockade'

JN0606152893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1205 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jun (INA)—Technical and engineering cadres from the State Enterprise for Iraqi Ports have prepared 23 jetties in Umm Qasr and Khawr al-Zubayr Ports in al-Basrah Governorate in order to receive commercial vessels when the unjust blockade imposed on the Iraqi people is lifted.

A source at the state enterprise told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY today that the said technical and engineering cadres have prepared these jetties within the framework of a campaign they have launched since May 1991 to reconstruct the Iraqi ports damaged by the sinful bombings that occurred during the 30-state aggression.

The source pointed out that the campaign adopted the method of alternatives in designing and execution and was aimed at reconstructing the jetties, shelters, warehouses, buildings, cranes, and exporting equipment, whose damage ranged from 50-100 percent.

'Mother of Battles River' Project Site Said Attacked

JN0506193793 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Retaliating against the regime's crimes committed on the unarmed people of the marshlands in the southern part of the country, the zealous Islamic revolution mujahidin launched a successful attack three days ago against the positions of the construction company working on the criminal project of the so-called Mother of Battles River, situated on the main road connecting the governorates of al-Basrah and al-Nasiriyah. The mujahidin, with God's help, destroyed the Saddamist machine of crime and inflicted just punishment on the criminal engineer Arshad who is in charge of the above-mentioned company. The people's will was also carried out by killed six mercenaries working in this harmful engineering project.

Our Islamic revolution mujahidin sources say that the above-mentioned company, which belongs to the regime, was attacked once again by the mujahidin who inflicted heavy losses on its equipment and personnel. The mujahidin also burned one vehicle belonging to the defeated tyrant.

Paper on Yemen's Desire for Improved Kuwait, GCC Ties

JN0706103693 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 5 Jun 93 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "Without Comment"]

[Text] AFP has said that new Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwa said in an interview published by Kuwaiti daily AL-SIYASAH on Thursday 3 June: We are not with Iraq, Yemen is not with Iraq, and we have never been against Kuwait or the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states. The reputation we had was the result of the misunderstanding, political confusion, and tension which prevailed during the days of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

He added: I was selected for the post of foreign minister at this particular stage due to my strong relations with the politicians and intellectuals in Kuwait and the Gulf region. This was a good initiative by the Yemeni leadership that is sure to be answered so that we will be able to play an important role in fostering and entrenching relations with Kuwait.

He further said: We are eager to resume our fraternal relations with Kuwait and the GCC states. The summer cloud will certainly pass.

He added: We have not forgotten, and will never forget the assistance provided by Kuwait's amir, government, and people during the days of our struggle against British colonialism. They fought with us and provided us with weapons. I have personal relations with the Kuwaitis that began during those days, and in particular with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad, with whom I have warm relations.

He called for direct meetings with Kuwaiti officials in order to solve all problems resulting from the Gulf crisis.

The Yemeni minister said: It is time for Yemen and Kuwait to meet to review what happened frankly because understanding and discussions cannot take place through correspondence and envoys. In fact we have cordial feelings, amity, and respect for Kuwait and the GCC states. What harms them also harms us, and our interests are the same.

Shin Bet, IDF, Police Arrest 120 Hamas Members

Rabin Comments on Detentions

TA0506203093 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1920 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Statement by Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, in Tel Aviv on 5 June—recorded]

[Text] I convened you here today to apprise you of what I consider to be a significant success scored by the Shin Bet, with the help of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the Israel Police, and other elements in the struggle against terrorism—mainly that perpetrated by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Recently we have discovered and apprehended Hamas terror squads, especially in Judaea and Samaria. We are holding 120 detainees.

Based on their own confessions made to the Israel Police, these squads took part in serious attacks and planned additional attacks. One of the squads, numbering four murderers from East Jerusalem, was the squad that kidnapped and murdered Israel Border Police officer Nisim Toledano. The same squad also murdered the two policemen, Mordekhay Yisra'el and Dani Hazut, in Wadi 'Ara. This squad also shot the police officer Gueta in the Bilo junction and tried to run over two soldiers standing near a hitchhike station in Wadi 'Ara.

The members of this squad carried Israeli ID cards; they used Israeli-licensed vehicles and traveled on the roads of Israel. This squad did not have to cross the border checkpoints between Israel and Judaea and Samaria. It traveled freely from Jerusalem both to the north and the south because the squad members carried Israeli ID cards and drove Israeli vehicles.

I consider the arrest of these squads....[pauses] Among these squads' members were those who participated in the murder of the two yeshiva students near the 'Eli junction. This incident was not an accident; they were deliberately run over with the intention of murdering Jews. The man who perpetrated this attack was also the man who drove the car bomb to the area of Mehola and was later killed during the explosion. These squads were also responsible for the two car bombs in Kamat Ef'al and Jerusalem as well as that in Mehola.

Based on the testimony of the detainees, it is beyond doubt that the closure severely curtailed their freedom of action. I am especially referring to the squads from Judaea and Samaria, not those from East Jerusalem. Today we know for sure that the car bomb that was meant to be activated in a central location in one of the cities in the Tel Aviv region was activated in Mehola because of the closure.

I want to state that I consider the uncovering of this Hamas terror network an extraordinary success. Following the interrogations and detentions, which will undoubtedly bring about more detentions and more uncovering, we are discovering more and more facts about the character, structure, and operational methods of the Hamas terror network. All this new testimony shows how right we were in deciding to deport the Hamas activists. Now we are learning more and more facts about the operation and the weight of many of them in building this network.

I cannot find the right words for expressing my deep appreciation—really, words cannot express this—for the operation of the Shin Bet personnel, the IDF officers and soldiers who work together with them, as well as Israel Police personnel. This is a whole system working in harmony and coordination with one clear objective toward which they are striving with all their might: to curb terrorism and minimize it as much as possible, so that these grave incidents I mentioned, as well as others, will not recur. I want to thank the Shin Bet personnel, the IDF officers and soldiers, and the Israel Police supervisors and policemen, who are working together. When they all strive to attain a central objective in unison, they score results.

I am holding this meeting after having talked with the families of the two policemen who were murdered in Wadi 'Ara, the families of Yisra'el and Hazut. I could not locate the Toledano family, because they were away from home in Haifa. I was told that a Haifa police officer briefed them on the fact we had caught the murderers of their loved one.

IDF Spokesman on Arrests

TA0506195693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1920 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Statement issued by the Israel Defense Forces, IDF, spokesman on 5 June in Tel Aviv, read by defense minister's spokesman 'Oded Ben- 'Ami]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman announces that the Shin Bet, with the aid of the IDF forces in Judaea and Samaria and the cooperation of the Jerusalem police, have uncovered in the last few days several Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] squads. One of these squads is suspected of having kidnapped and murdered Israeli policeman Nisim Toledano on 12 December 1992; of the murder of two Israeli policemen, Mordekhay Yisra'el and Dani Hazut in the Talme El'azar junction on 30 March 1993; of gunfire directed at Israel Police officer Shalom Gueta in the Bilo junction on 6 May 1993; of running over and killing two Israelis, Ya'aqov Brakha and 'Ofer Kohen, in the 'Eli junction in Samaria on 15 March 1993; and of running over and injuring two soldiers at a hitchhike station near the Hadera police station. One of these soldiers, Yaniv Lalush, suffered moderate injuries; this incident occurred on 17 February 1993.

These grave attacks within Israel were carried out by a Hamas 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam squad numbering four East Jerusalem residents. Two of them are from 'Anata, the third from the Shu'fat refugee camp, and the fourth a

resident of Sur Bahir. This squad specialized in kidnapping soldiers and policemen for bargaining purposes and in murdering them when the bargaining process was unsuccessful. So far more than 120 Hamas squads' members have been detained on suspicion of having carried out attacks, and dozens more arrests are expected. The suspects participated, among other things, in preparing the car bomb that was discovered before blowing up in Ramat Ef'al and another car bomb that exploded near a bus carrying soldiers in the Jordan Valley, killing a Janin resident and slightly wounding several soldiers.

It also transpires from the Shin Bet interrogation of the suspects that the squads' members planned additional attacks. The detained suspects noted during their interrogations that some of the additional attacks they planned did not materialize as a result of the difficulties caused by the closure on the territories and the intensive activity of the IDF, the Shin Bet, and the police against suspects in the territories.

The prime minister and defense minister this evening congratulated the Shin Bet, the IDF, and the police for their success in this operation, one of the largest operations to apprehend such dangerous squads in the history of Israel.

Gur: Hamas Incapable of Mass Action

TA0606083693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur says that although Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has insinuated itself into the consciousness of the local population, it is incapable of enlisting masses for its terrorist actions. Speaking to Qol Yisra'el this morning, Mordekhay Gur said that the high number of detainees does not prove that Hamas has thousands of activists in the field.

Referring to the pamphlet of open-fire instructions issued by settlers, Deputy Minister Gur said that they too are bound by the law.

Today the Shin Bet will hold a news conference where additional details about the capture of the 120 Hamas terrorists will be disclosed. Police Commissioner Rafi Peled said this morning that their exposure and detention has lightened the police work, freeing troops for vital tasks. He added that the question of changing the license plates of East Jerusalem Arabs' vehicles is not being discussed.

The East Jerusalem assassination squad members appear to have operated on the instructions of several Hamas deportees.

Plan To Bomb Government Compound Revealed

TA0606135993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] The members of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] squads, whose capture was revealed yesterday, planned to detonate car bombs at Haqirya, the government ministries' compound in Tel Aviv; at the Bayt Lid junction; and near a department store on Jerusalem's King George Street.

The commander of the squad from East Jerusalem, whose members kidnapped and then murdered border policeman Nissim Toledano, is 25-year-old Muhammad Musa 'Isa. The man runs a press agency in East Jerusalem and also publishes the Israeli Islamic Movement's newsletter, which appears in Umm al-Fahm. The other three men are Majid Hasan Abu-Qattas from 'Anata, who used to work as a gardener for the Jerusalem Municipality; Muhammad Muhammad 'Attawan from Sur Bahir, a theology student in Umm al-Fahm; and Musa Muhammad 'Aqari, from Shu'fat, an education student in Jerusalem.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that it was reported at a news conference with a senior Shin Bet official that the four men murdered Nissim Toledano at 0200 in the morning the day after his kidnapping. In total, 120 activists were arrested. Nine fugitives remain at large, and dozens of suspects are still being sought.

In the course of the squads' capture, the authorities found Kalashnikov assault rifles, FN rifles, three English rifles, five revolvers, four fragmentation grenades, a huge quantity of chemicals used in the preparation of explosive charges, and ammunition.

The members of the East Jerusalem squad turned over an Uzi submachine gun and four revolvers, including those of Nissim Toledano and the two policemen murdered near Wadi 'Ara. They were also found in possession of Nissim Toledano's and Mordekhay Yisra'el's police ID cards, a driver license, photographs of the murdered men, and insurance policies. All this in addition to cold steel weapons and gloves.

Detainee Received Training in U.S.

TA0606184193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Defense establishment officials warn that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] might now proceed to stage terrorist attacks in Israel and abroad to prove that the latest wave of arrests has not paralyzed its ability to operate. So far, it has been learned that 124 suspects have been arrested, the last of them this morning. Nine men wanted for their involvement in the activities of the squad uncovered in East Jerusalem have not yet been arrested. [passage omitted]

The arrest of members of Hamas' military arm has revealed that armed gangs emerge at a speedy rate in

numerous villages. Contact is being maintained with the movement's headquarters in the United States and Jordan, and the main role is being played by students in various colleges. One of the arrested suspects claims that he was trained in the use of firearms in one of the southern U.S. states by instructors from Lebanon.

It has also transpired that the 400 men deported to Lebanon last December included several key activists whose involvement in terrorist attacks was not known at that time, including the commander of the armed gangs in the Hebron Hills area. These details are reported by our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari. [passage omitted]

Army Reportedly Closes Mosque

NC0606193193 Paris AFP in English 1912 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Jerusalem, June 6 (AFP)—The Israeli army on Sunday [6 June] closed the largest mosque in the West Bank town of Nabulus for two months after soldiers found weapons there, Palestinian sources said.

Weapons used in hand-to-hand fighting as well as propaganda material published by the radical Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, were discovered during a search of al-'Ali mosque, they said.

Israel announced Saturday the arrest of 120 Hamas members, including four suspects in the December murder of an Israeli border guard. His killing sparked the deportation of 415 Palestinians and a four-month breakdown in Arab-Israeli peace talks.

In the Gaza Strip a military court sentenced to life imprisonment plus 10 years a Palestinian accused of having murdered fellow Arabs suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities, army and Palestinian sources said.

Ayman Ahmad al-Ibrahim, 25, was arrested in May 1992 by the army.

Hamas, Israeli Islamic Movement Linked

TA0706133793 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Jun 93 p 2

[Report by On Levi]

[Text] The Israeli Islamic Movement is aiding Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Funds transferred to Hamas by the Islamic Movement are used to purchase weapons and equipment for the wanted squads being sought by the authorities.

The Islamic Movement maintains close contacts with the political, organizational, and ideological leadership of Hamas (al-Da'wah). This claim was made by a very senior Shin Bet official. The official added that the Islamic Movement, the headquarters of which are located in Umm-al-Fahm, provides Hamas with administrative and financial aid. The contacts are held on an ideological, social, and institutional basis.

The source added: "We have so far not noticed operational military links, but the money delivered is used for the purchase of arms, military equipment, and cars which, among other things, serve the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads. It is not clear to us that the money was given for this particular end."

A religious college operates in Umm-al-Fahm in Wadi 'Ara. Muhammad 'Atun, a member of the recently detained Jerusalem squad, studied at this college. Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, one of the leading figures of the Islamic Movement resides in Umm-al-Fahm. The senior source noted that the fact that the city is located near the Green Line leads to inevitable contacts with villages and cities in the Tulkarm and Janin Districts. The source stressed that these contacts are not guided by the Islamic leadership but were created, among other things, on the basis of family ties and personal and social relations.

It is worth noting that three years ago, the Hamas organization was outlawed, and any contact with it is illegal. The source stressed that despite the existing contacts between the two movements, no terror attacks were found to have been perpetrated or guided by members of the Israeli Islamic Movement, with the exception of the attack in Gil'ad, in which three IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were murdered two years ago by Israeli Arabs from Wadi 'Ara villages.

The source added that Israeli Arabs mediate in arms deals and that the arms end up in the hands of squads of fugitives in the territories. The Israeli Arabs buy the weapons from Israelis, often criminals, and sell them to Palestinians in the territories. The weapons are used for self-defense and by the fugitive squads. According to the Shin Bet official, "There is an arms trade. There are fixed tariffs for weapons and other military equipment. The dealers do not intend the arms to be used in terror attacks, but some of the arms traded reach terroristic elements." He stressed that over the past several years, the involvement of IDF soldiers in the trade of arms has dropped.

Security Sources: No Reason To Relax

TA0706052193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Security elements predict that the rejectionist movements will increase their terrorist activity against Israeli targets abroad. As for the deportation of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists to Lebanon, the same sources voiced the assessment that while it was a severe blow to the organization, the deportees' anticipated return to the territories from Lebanon will reinvigorate the organization. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports:

The defense establishment believes that despite the wave of arrests and the blow dealt Hamas and its military arm, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, Hamas will be able to continue operating. Its members are motivated to prove that they are still strong and capable of carrying out their activities. Such organizations, said a senior official, have highly developed and rapid recuperative capabilities compared with other Palestinian groups. Hamas is capable of reorganizing itself and drawing the appropriate conclusions. The interrogation of the dozens of arrested activists has revealed an almost complete picture of the structure of the Hamas organization, its contacts abroad, and its modus operandi in the territories. Aside from its connections with Hamas elements in the United States, much light has recently been shed on the link between the Hamas political leadership in Israel and activists in Jordan, who engage mainly in recruitment and issuing general instructions. Some activists belonging to the military arm were sent to undergo training in Jordan and served as instructors upon their return to the territories. The Jordanian authorities are aware of this activity, and Israel has even voiced alarm about it in the past. In several instances, activists trained in the United States, occasionally under the tutelage of Lebanese instructors.

Sources in the defense establishment said that the mass deportation had dealt a severe blow to the organization. Its infrastructure was damaged, and the deportation has undoubtedly caused a sense of shock and created to great difficulties. A senior Shin Bet official estimated, however, that the deportees' expected return to the territories from Lebanon will revitalize the organization as top activists come back with orders to rebuild the damaged infrastructure. At any rate, the assessment is that there is no reason to relax, despite the latest wave of arrests. Security sources expect an increase in terrorist attacks by the rejectionist movements, especially Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, against Israeli targets abroad. One of the reasons behind this expected development will be the movements' desire to gain greater media coverage of their activities and to emphasize their opposition to the political process.

Peres: Arrests To Facilitate Talks

TA0706105693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says a peace accord with Jordan is near at hand and the smashing of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorist network will lift some of the pressure on Palestinian peace negotiators. David Essing reports:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Essing] Might the cracking of the Hamas terrorist network make it easier for the Palestinians to negotiate in Washington this month? Peres believes it will.

[Peres] Yes, I think the Hamas was threatening not just the lives of innocent Israelis, but also the fortunes of the Palestinian negotiators. They have created an armed opposition in the West Bank and Gaza. They have created unnecessary menaces to the lives and to the nature of the negotiations, and I think that their arrest will ease very much the negotiations in the future.

[Essing] And as for today's report that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will play a greater role in the talks with Syria, Peres does not believe the U.S. will try to impose its ideas on either of the sides. [end recording]

Settlers Pamphlet Encourages Open Fire, Promises Legal Aid

TA0606074993 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 6 Jun 93 p 12

[Report by Tzvi Singer]

[Text] A call to open fire at the "perpetrators of aggravated crimes" even when danger no longer exists has been distributed in settlements in the territories.

The Command of the Struggle to Annul the Autonomy Plan, headed by Attorney Elyaqim Ha'etzni, has disseminated about 25,000 copies of a pamphlet titled: "Instructions for the Attacked Citizen: The Truth About the Law Governing Open-Fire Regulations."

"Have you been told that you may open fire only for self defense and in a life-endangering situation? False!" the pamphlet front page announces. The pamphlet, written by Ha'etzni, accuses the State Attorney's Office and the media of carrying out an intimidation campaign and "keeping secret the citizens' legal rights" pertaining to the use of firearms.

"If you have issued a vocal warning," the brochure states, "fired in the air, and exhausted every other way of detaining him, and if the shooting will not endanger others, you may shoot him in the legs. Remember, even if the danger is gone, you may open fire solely to apprehend the criminal after the deed!" The command promises to put legal aid at the disposal of those "who act legally and exploit their rights."

Attorney General Yosef Harish refused to comment on the leaflet last night. "It is not a simple issue," he said. "Any single different circumstance may change the whole picture as to what may or may not be done."

Minister Denies Meeting, Remarks

TA0606105293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] The Command of the Struggle To Annul the Autonomy Plan asserts today that in a closed meeting between the police minister and Golan settlers two and a half weeks ago, the police minister said that the fate of the Golan is a concluded fact, that Israel will hand most of the Golan to Syria, and the Jewish settlements will be evacuated within 10 to 15 years.

According to the report, Shahal further said that the Americans will occupy the Golan's mountain ridge line [qav hatilim] for the duration of 10 to 15 years and will set up a security outpost in the Hermon. This was reported by our correspondent Udi Segal.

No confirmation of the report from directly relevant persons has been available.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 6 June carries a brief recorded interview with Minister Moshe Shahal by political correspondent Natan Gutman during an break in the cabinet meeting. Asked to comment about the Golan settlers' report, Shahal says: "I am sorry you have been misled. Qol Yisra'el has almost tripped over the same report, but after checking it out, they refused to broadcast this rumor spread by a Tzomet Knesset member, they realized it is totally unfounded, simply a canard." Replying to Gutman's question—"Then you have not made these remarks, have not met with them?" Shahal says: "Of course, I did not meet with them and did not make these remarks. It is simply a foolishness that one can hardly comprehend."

[Gutman is followed by announcer 'Adi Talmor, who asks Shahal to explain the remarks of "Eli Malka, chairman of the Command of the Struggle to Annul the Autonomy Plan, about the meeting and that Shalhal expressed a personal opinion that a peace agreement with Syria would be signed by the end of next year. Under that agreement, the Golan settlements would be evacuated within 10 years." Shahal replies: "I have nothing to say. If you want to meet with me and ask me about my personal opinions, I will tell you. I think the report is too ridiculous for words. There was a purely personal meeting, where issues were discussed, and there was no news there. I am sorry you have been misled."]

Kahana Hay Leader: Group Training With Firearms in U.S.

TA0606170293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Binyamin Ze'ev Kahana, the leader of the Kahana Hay Movement, today said that a group of approximately 100 young members of the organization have been training in the use of firearms and combat methods in the United States for several weeks under the tutelage of reserve officers from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the U.S. Army. Kahana claimed that the young activists will return to Israel and follow the instructions of the movement's leaders. Our correspondent Golan Yokhpaz has more details.

[Begin recording] [Yokhpaz] Binyamin Ze'ev Kahana, the leader of the Kahana Hay Movement, says that over 100 Kahana Hay members have been training in the use of firearms, grenades, and M-16 and Kalashnikov rifles in the United States for several weeks. They will arrive in Israel at the appropriate time, he said, to do what must be done.

[Kahana] We are preparing a large group of young people who are training there in various methods with firearms and combat techniques. They are also receiving ideological instruction so as to be prepared to come to Israel when the time comes if necessary and do whatever they have to do depending on the prevailing circumstances.

[Yokhpaz] Kahana said that the training courses in the United States are perfectly legal and are being held in states that permit the possession of firearms. The trainees are undergoing physical training and ideological pep talks that will prepare them for their designated activity in Israel in the near future.

At a news conference this afternoon, the movement's leaders said that the Rabin government, which, they asserted, was operating under fictitious democratic principles, sought to destroy the Kahana Hay Movement and put its leaders in jail. Therefore, the movement had to create a serious operational infrastructure for the near future. Binyamin Ze'ev Kahana this afternoon said that some of the activists currently training in the United States are being groomed to replace the movement's leaders if the latter are imprisoned in Israel.

[Kahana] If we in Kahana Hay feel that the government or the authorities are preventing us from operating, sitting on our tails, or arresting us at every turn, we will have to do something we very much wish to avoid. We will have to bring these guys over and begin operating in a different manner.

[Yokhpaz] Over the next month, Kahana said, the group will conduct an intensive training course in the United States with the participation of Israeli instructors who served as officers in elite IDF units. [end recording]

Settlers: Peres Says Settlements To Stay

TA0706123793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Residents of Qarney Shomrom met today with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. According to Gabi Butbul, the head of the local council, Peres promised them that the Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria will remain in place under the permanent agreement. This was reported by our correspondent Gil Litman. At the meeting, Mr. Peres also said that he favors the establishment of a federation or confederation in the territories with direct excess to Israel.

The settlers complained about what they called an atmosphere of delegitimation of them and said that they came to talk to Peres about their reservations regarding the peace process and autonomy.

Minister Peres made it clear to them that the Israeli Government manages the political negotiations and not the Jews residing in the territories.

Paper Says U.S. Forgoes Demand on Territories' Expenses

TA0706100793 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 7 Jun 93 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Text] The U.S. Administration has withdrawn its demand that Israel report its expenditures in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza in accordance with the U.S. terms for the loan guarantees Israel has received.

The official explanation was that the demand had been made by a low-level official who was unaware of its political impact.

Similar requests for reports on activities in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and on settlements had been made of Israel in the past. As is known, in this context Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had pledged to President Bush to stop settlement activities. The demand for reports consequently proved unnecessary. The official who conveyed the demand was not aware of the fact and had not been instructed by the senior echelons.

Peres on Peace Talks With Jordan, Syria, Gaza First

TA0706062293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the agreement with Jordan only needs to be signed and that the Jordanians are not concluding it only because they fear they will remain isolated. Minister Peres was speaking last night at the inauguration of Haifa University's Morli Kohen political science building. Our correspondent Haviva Roger reports:

[Begin recording] [Roger] The foreign minister revealed that Jordan and Israel have almost reached agreement on all issues pertaining to the peace agreement. In effect, he said, what remains to be done is only to sign the agreement.

[Peres] I think what is still missing in relations between Israel and Jordan is a pen, not an agreement, because to all intents and purposes we have already reached an agreement; we simply have to pull out a pen and sign it. I think that most issues have already been agreed upon, but the Jordanians do not want to finalize the agreement because they fear that if they are the first to sign they will remain isolated.

[Roger] In a lecture before Haifa University's board of trustees, Shim'on Peres clarified that Israel is ready to transfer economic responsibility for the territories to the Palestinian residents already today. If self-rule can be implemented even in part of the territories—in the Gaza Strip, for example—then Gaza First could serve as an example for self-rule. There is nothing to fear, Peres said.

[Peres, in English] Israel is ready to transfer already today, to the Palestinians, the economic responsibilities for the people who reside in the territories, and if it is possible to implement self-rule, even in parts of the areas—even at this stage for example in Gaza—let us have Gaza First becoming an example for self-government. There is nothing to fear.

[Roger] The Palestinians, Peres added, should not count on future employment in Israel but rather on the development of the territories. After the lecture, we asked Foreign Minister Peres how long the closure on the territories would continue.

[Peres] In my opinion, we are currently in a transitional stage. Everything depends on when we conclude the discussions on the autonomy. If we conclude the discussions on the autonomy, I definitely expect a fundamental change in the situation, both with regard to our actions and with regard to the Arabs' reactions.

[Roger] Our enemy, the foreign minister stressed, is not the Muslim or the Arab world but rather the political situation. In his opinion, efforts should be directed at improving our relations with additional Muslim countries, such as Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan. [end recording]

[A related report on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 7 June adds that "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres also addressed the issue of the talks with the Syrians." The report notes that "on this issue, he was less optimistic than in his preceding statements about Jordan." In a recorded passage, Peres says: "In the talks with Syria we had two good beginnings. Now things appear to be somewhat stuck or on hold. The two good beginnings were the very fact that the Syrians agreed to publicly sit down face-to-face with us. The second thing was their adoption of the general concept of peace, just as we adopted the general concept of withdrawal." Peres notes, however, that "the Syrian concept of peace remains undeciphered, and what they have revealed does not exactly tally with the meaning of peace. For example, they are opposed to the establishment of joint embassies in Syria and Israel or to open borders." Peres continues: "Therefore, we must adhere to our positions in the negotiations, both from the political and the security aspects. I am sorry about the prevailing state of uncertainty; however, this situation is avoidable, and the matter is not only up to us."]

Arabs: Remark on Agreement Calculated

TA0706152393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Peres's surprising statement on significant progress in the peace negotiations with Jordan—which, when taken at face value could have caused Jordan serious damage in the Arab arena—was no slip of the tongue, according to Arab sources. They

claim it was a calculated move by the foreign minister. This move might have been even coordinated with the Jordanians, to help them create a positive atmosphere toward King Husayn's upcoming visit in Washington.

The tension between Jordan and the United States, which started during the Gulf war and outlasted it, has dissolved over the past several months. The king, however, wants an even more favorable reception in the U.S. capital, so that in the near future he will be able to cash on it—literally, because Jordan needs the cash to revive its economy.

To this end, the Jordanian court wants the U.S. Administration to feel that Jordan is one of the leading horses pulling the peace cart. The declarations by Jordan's Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al- Majali last week and Peres' recent remarks serve this very purpose. [passage omitted]

Beilin: No Written Agreement With Jordan Yet

TA0706084393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin clarified several minutes ago that Israel has not yet reached a written peace agreement with Jordan. However, he said that we are very close to achieving such an agreement. The deputy foreign minister also stressed that Jordan will not sign a peace agreement with Israel before agreements are signed with Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinians.

Gaza First Concept Detailed, Said Closer to PLO Ideas

TA0606084993 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 6 Jun 93 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Dan Avidan]

[Excerpt] On 8 June, Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein will meet with the U.S. State Department "peace team" and will present to them Israel's positions regarding the Gaza First concept.

The Americans have asked for additional details about the Gaza First idea in the wake of media reports on remarks by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on this issue and on Palestinian reactions to it.

The U.S. Embassy in Israel yesterday delivered to the prime minister's bureau the letter summoning the parties to the resumption of the peace talks next week. The letter says that the talks will resume on Tuesday, 15 June.

Political sources in Jerusalem yesterday expressed their satisfaction with Faysal al-Husayni's statement about his agreement in principle to discuss the Gaza First concept. It seems that the offer is "gathering momentum," they said.

Recently, Israeli elements have met with al-Husayni and made it clear to him that an acceptance of the Gaza First notion could pave the way to shortening the period between the introduction of the interim arrangement and the beginning of the discussions of the permanent arrangement.

Sources in the prime minister's bureau said last night that "at this stage" Rabin only aims at the rapid implementation of the interim arrangement in Gaza. This will be done after "an agreement in principle" about the interim arrangements in general is reached. The sources said that Rabin is certain that the self-government arrangements can be implemented in Gaza in a relatively short time, while the implementation of such arrangements in Judaea and Samaria might prove to be protracted and full of obstacles.

At the same time, even the prime minister's bureau does not rule out a possible Israeli future agreement to enter negotiations on the permanent arrangement in Gaza immediately after the interim arrangement is implemented.

This stand is closer to the PLO position which, according to the Arab press, is suggesting that an independent Palestinian state be set up in the Gaza Strip vis-a-vis the implementation of the interim arrangements in Judaea and Samaria.

Political sources have confirmed the reports in the Arab media last week, according to which Yasir 'Arafat had asked Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky to bring up his ideas regarding Gaza First in the meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Vranitzky will be coming to Israel on 8 June. His visit will be the first official visit to Israel by an Austrian chancellor. [passage omitted]

Jericho First Said Also Under Consideration

TA0706100093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jun 93 pp A1, A10

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Gay Bekhor]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A political source in Jerusalem has stated that Israel is examining the proposal raised in Austrian Chancellor Vranitzky's conversation with 'Arafat to implement autonomy in Jericho first (in addition to Gaza), on condition that the Palestinian delegation signs the framework agreement for the establishment of self-government. This report has not been officially confirmed. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Discusses Hamas Roundup, Elections on Treaty

TA0606160693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Speaking at today's cabinet session, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the arrest of 124 Hamas

[Islamic Resistance Movement] activists has dealt a blow to that organization but that terrorist attacks are still being perpetrated and the war against terrorism will continue. The cabinet was told that all the Arab parties were expected to participate in the next round of peace talks in Washington. The cabinet decided to reject Knesset Member [MK] Hagay Merom's proposal to initiate legislation mandating a national referendum prior to any territorial withdrawal. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports on the cabinet session.

[Begin recording] [Gutman] The cabinet held a lengthy discussion today on the capture of 120 Hamas activists suspected of carrying out murders and other acts of sabotage inside Israel. Security officials briefed the cabinet on the details, and the ministers praised the security services. I highly appreciate the Shin Bet's tenacity, their ability to exploit and cross-check the smallest scraps of information, and their subsequent flushing out of the perpetrators, Prime Minister Rabin said, noting that terrorist activity continues and that there are still Hamas squads engaged in terrorism. Rabin said that the recent operation has dealt a blow to Hamas but the war against terrorism continues. All the ministers joined Rabin in congratulating the Shin Bet.

The reports on the capture of the terrorists engendered a debate on the continuation of the closure on the territories. Minister Ya'ir Tzaban asked what must happen before the government admits that the situation in the territories is intolerable. His question remained unanswered. Other ministers proposed increasing the number of Palestinians permitted to enter Israel. In summation, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said: I am not ignoring the economic difficulties. We are trying to cope with the issue.

Today's cabinet session barely touched on the political process. At Minister Sarid's request, the ministers agreed to discuss the political process in a different forum later in the week. After the meeting, Sarid said that the cabinet had heard an optimistic report on the resumption of the peace talks.

[Sarid] There is full confidence that the next round of talks will open. There is no certainty, however, regarding the exact date. At any rate, the talks will definitely resume within two weeks, and I believe that it proved easier to resume them this time than in the past, because all the relevant parties declared in advance their readiness and desire to resume the negotiations.

[Gutman] The cabinet decided today to reject Labor MK Hagay Merom's proposal to make a national referendum mandatory if the government decides to return any territories. Minister Arye Der'i abstained, and the other ministers voted against Merom's proposal. Minister Moshe Shahal explains why.

[Shahal] The significance of this would be that no government in Israel could hold negotiations. If it becomes necessary to go to the people, whether in elections or through a national referendum, this will be done after we have signed a treaty that will then be submitted for final ratification in this or that framework.

[Gutman] Minister Hayim Ramon reassured any potential coalition partners that the cabinet's opposition to Merom's proposal had not closed the door to the possibility of broadening the coalition.

[Ramon] Any party that wants to negotiate and considers the national referendum one of its top priorities can join the government on the basis of the clause in our coalition agreement with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], which stipulates that if we attain a peace agreement, that party can demand that the matter be resolved either through a national referendum or in elections. When the time comes, we will discuss exactly how to resolve the matter. As I have already stated before, I prefer elections.

[Gutman] The cabinet will reconvene on 10 June for an initial debate on next year's state budget. [end recording]

Knesset Approves New Cabinet

TA0706143593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] The Knesset rejected the motion of no confidence in the government over the cabinet reshuffle and approved the new cabinet lineup. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the no-confidence motion was rejected by 58 to 38 votes. The new ministerial portfolios setup was approved by 59 to 38. There were no abstentions in both votes.

Rabin: Plan To Raise Talks to Foreign Minister Level

TA0706132393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that there is a plan to upgrade the political negotiations to the foreign minister level. He stressed, however, that we must not make haste and must negotiate patiently because there will not be peace at any price. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Mr. Rabin made the remarks to Labor's Knesset faction. In the prime minister's view, the next round of peace talks will not be decisive, but progress can be expected. Mr. Rabin noted that the Palestinians are the ones holding up major progress, and the delay originates mainly in Tunis, but added that without Syria and the Palestinians we will not achieve peace.

He also said that Gaza should be discussed at the end of the process and not right at the start. Referring to Golan Heights settlers, Rabin said that if genuine proposals are presented to him for the plateau, the settlers there can rotate like propellers, but it will not help them.

Peres Rejects Remarks on Gaza Last

TA0706163093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that in the peace process, progress in one track should not be handcuffed to another, and progress should be made wherever possible. Peres was asked to respond to remarks by the prime minister that the Gaza issue would be discussed only at the end of the process. Peres said that if we do that, the rejectionists will be leading. The foreign minister believes that practical considerations will always the ones to be considered, or as he said, we will advance where progress can be made.

Peres made the remarks at a reception by President 'Ezer Weizman for the diplomatic corps. Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that U.S. Ambassador William Harrop [as heard] estimated at the meeting that the peace talks will open on time and with the participation of all the sides.

Spokesman Denies Rabin Remark

TA0706164993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] We have a reaction from Gad Ben-'Ari, the prime minister's media adviser, to an item we reported earlier. Ben-'Ari wishes to make it clear that the prime minister did not tell Labor Knesset faction that Israel intends to raise the level of peace talks. According to Ben-'Ari, Rabin said: In the past, Israel several times expressed its position in favor of raising the level of the talks when conditions permit it. In reference to Gaza, Mr. Rabin reiterated his position that after reaching an agreement in principle on an interim arrangement, Israel will be prepared to implement it in Gaza first.

UN Participation in Multilateral Committee Rejected

TA0706074593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Israel is opposed to the participation of a UN representative on the steering committee of the multilateral peace talks scheduled to convene in Moscow in approximately one month. The United States supports the Israeli position.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz explains that this is an expression of the Israeli Foreign Ministry's displeasure over the fact that the United Nations refrained from including Israelis in the circle of decision-makers in its institutions.

Commentary Faults Rabin for 'Shoddy Work'

TA0406121893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Jun 93 p B1

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "Two Left Hands"]

[Text] A theater critic would have said that the government's problem is not so much the script as it is the director's shoddy work. The acting and even the text could be improved were the direction more creative. The play at the Rabin theater cannot be closed, and we will not be permitted to return the tickets and get a refund. The act takes place time and again, and it is embarrassing. Who is the main culprit? I would join the critics and charge that in the final analysis, it is Yitzhaq Rabin.

The closer we look at it, the harder it is to accept that the latest crisis could not have been handled differently or even prevented. Rabin's recurrent problem is his difficulty in converting his tough talk about being at the helm into deeds. Not every attack on one of the coalition's components needs to turn into an uncontrollable commotion or a hysterical runaround. Had Meretz demanded that the cards be reshuffled because of invectives sputtered by the ultra-Orthodox leaders, Rabin would have ordered it to sit quietly. Why? Because it is less gifted in the game of political threats. With his hesitant approach, the navigator permitted SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] to drive the country crazy for a whole month.

In the name of justice and honesty, Rabin should not be blamed for each and every mistake. But there is something in the way a government, like any large organization, functions that is derived from the work pattern of the person at the top and his personal traits. The best example is Rabin's weak handling of the peace negotiations. More than any other issue, it clearly demonstrates his leadership failings. The prime minister has not succeeded in conveying the feeling that he knows what his aim is and is using the full might of his office to work toward it .

Time is slipping through his fingers while he makes gestures or waves his fist. Contrary to his promise, it is already quite clear that though it may not be a year of failure, 1993 will also not be one of great achievement. Rabin's failure to serve as a role model is a main factor in the protracted negotiations, which are full of pitfalls.

This negative situation has an impact on other fields, different though they may be, in which it is vital that somebody appear to be in charge. As defense minister, Rabin should have told the chief of staff long ago that the public (and he himself) will not tolerate the way the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is investigating the chain of accidents and mishaps over the past two years.

It would have been preferable, of course, had Ehud Baraq preempted his boss and thrown his full weight into dealing with the problem. But any organization will continue to surround itself with a protective wall as long as a dominant outside authority does not order it to do differently. Rabin's characteristic of permitting developments "to ripen" leads to spoiled fruit. Only an angry public and the pressure set off by the chain of accidents began to make the General Staff recognize that what is

involved is a critical national issue. It is difficult to see how the IDF will be permitted to investigate the next accident on its own.

This unwholesome inspiration by Rabin even influenced the ineffective direction of the Libyan stand-up act. Ministers 'Uzi Bar'am and Moshe Shahal would not have dared to fumble so clumsily had the ministers known (even if they are not Shulamit Aloni) that they would be severely reprimanded every time they make a fool of themselves. It is true that Rabin should not be held responsible for every act of stupidity, but it is hard to escape the impression that Rabin leaves too much playing room for left-handed antics.

Rabin still nestles the mentality of the prestate Palmah military units. He eschews imposing the whole weight of his authority. He seems to blush every time he has to implement his dictum, "I will lead; I will make the decisions." His actors work almost entirely without the help of a director. Sometimes (such as during the negotiations) their script is unclear. There could have been something attractive, certainly democratic, in this, were it not for the fact that we all know what is at stake here, while the boat is rocking in every direction with no one at the helm.

There are also some positive examples pointing at the healthy potential inherent in clear, determined decisions. Early in the tenure of this government, Rabin decided to stop investments in the territories while ignoring the clamor from the right wing. In a very short time we could see the initial results of infrastructure development within the Green Line of a kind we have not witnessed during the last decade. The greatest virtue of this decision was the clarity of the objective and Rabin's firm backing of an issue that is far from being simple.

It is exasperating to think how much wasted power Rabin holds, which he could have used to force his decisions in a dozen similar areas. In failing to do this, he is adversely affecting not only his own performance but that of the entire government. One can push the theater imagery a little further: Rabin lacks a sense of drama. Is it possible that he is also tired? Here is a suggestion: Ben-Gurion (notwithstanding all the differences) used to disappear occasionally to meditate calmly on some complicated matter. Whenever he reappeared, Israel anxiously waited to hear what he had up his sleeve. Rabin has several such issues—particularly the peace negotiations—over which his government has gotten stuck. Let him leave everything, take a solitary vacation, and come back with his conclusions. His supporters might like this idea. Evil tongues will say, on the other hand, that he is likely to come back to the impatient audience with the same old play.

U.S. Sources: 'Amit Spied for NATO Country

TA0406181093 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1730 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] The United States was the party that informed Israel about the suspicion of spying against Major Yosef 'Amit. This came from U.S. intelligence sources speaking to our correspondent in Washington Ya'ir Stern. The sources emphasized, however, that 'Amit did not spy for the United States but rather for a European country, which is a member of NATO. The sources also said that 'Amit did not give his handlers information about the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] but rather figures that Israeli intelligence had gathered about Arab navies and their operations in the Mediterranean, a subject on which 'Amit specialized during his service in the Intelligence Corps. The U.S. sources told our correspondent that the issue of exchanging 'Amit with Jonathan Pollard was never on the agenda. They noted that 'Amit's trial ended before the Pollard affair started.

State Attorney Rejects 'Amit's Accusations

TA0606135093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Deputy State Attorney Rahel Sukar said that Yosef 'Amit's accusations against his interrogators and judges are completely baseless. The man was convicted of very serious offenses, such as espionage and maintaining contact with a foreign agent, and his punishment merely reflects the severity of his actions.

Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that Deputy State Attorney Sukar also stated that the State Attorney's Office had no intention of debating the issue with journalists who collected scraps of information for one year and then translated their findings into bombastic headlines. The deputy state attorney asserted that their information was jumbled and one-sided and failed to shed light on the entire affair.

Gur: Consequences of Nuclear Attack Too Costly for Arabs

TA0606172693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies held a symposium this evening to mark the 12th anniversary of the bombing of the Osirak nuclear reactor near Baghdad by the Israel Air Force. Attending the symposium were Colonel Ze'ev Raz, the commander of the operation and then-Air Force Chief Major General David 'Ivri, as well as Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur and Knesset Member Yitzhaq Shamir, the foreign minister in Begin's government. Our correspondent Meron Tzur reports:

Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur, a lieutenant general in the reserves, stated a few minutes ago that any Arab leader of a country hostile to Israel must carefully weigh what he stands to win or lose if he decides to drop

a nuclear bomb on Israel. Each and every Arab leader knows full well that Israel will not sit idly by, that it has an active defense, and that it will not be worth his while to expose his country to the risk of an Israeli retaliation.

As far as Israel is concerned, Gur said, we are capable of turning the situation in such a way as to make it too costly for anybody to wage a nuclear war against us here, in the Middle East. The damage Israel will inflict on the nuclear aggressors will far outweigh the so-called profits they may be able to reap. Nobody will ever catch us in a moment of weakness, the deputy defense minister stated, because Israel is capable of dealing a devastating blow which will make a nuclear war not worth their while.

Intelligence Branch Chief on Regional Military Buildup

TA0706115793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Major General Uri Sagi, chief of the General Staff's Intelligence Branch, said today that Syria's arms procurement is worrisome and that we must keep an eye on and pay attention to it. Our correspondent Netan'el Semrik is on the phone after having heard Sagi address a news conference in Tel Aviv to mark Intelligence Corps day:

With regard to the political process in the Middle East, we are witnessing a troubling process in which the military forces in our region are being strengthened. This includes strategic weapons—meaning long-range missiles with nuclear and chemical capability. This statement was made several minutes ago by the head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] General Staff's Intelligence Branch. According to Gen. Sagi, if the peace process gets stuck sometime in the future, this amplified power and the newly acquired arsenals might form a potential basis for the use of military force against the State of Israel.

At the same time, Sagi stressed that in the foreseeable future—that is, the next few months—the military threat against Israel will diminish, because today the Arab countries and the Palestinians are trying to see the political process through to the end to serve their own interests.

According to the head of the Intelligence Branch, the nonconventional threat might reappear in Iraq if the international supervision on it is lifted. This potential also exists in Iran and Libya, as well as in some North African countries.

Syria is also a source of concern for Israel. The Syrian Army continues to procure arms and buy advanced tanks, planes, means of defense, and Scud-C missiles. Gen. Sagi said, and I quote: This is a troubling path. We must keep an eye on and pay close attention to it, even if there is no immediate military threat to Israel's existence.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 7 June carries a similar report by Arye Gus, adding that "Gen. Sagi had no encouraging news about terror. Terrorism is likely to continue inside Israel and from Lebanon. In conclusion, Sagi said the peace process will be long and difficult. The Palestinian and Syrian problems must be solved, and the Lebanese and Jordanian problems will follow suit. We must also remember the importance of Egypt's role."]

IDF Soldiers 'Slightly' Wounded in Rafah 4 Jun

TA0406201593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] Two IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were slightly wounded in Rafah this evening after terrorists threw a hand grenade at an IDF patrol in the Ibnah neighborhood. The soldiers in the patrol returned fire. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the wounded soldiers were transferred for treatment in Soroka Hospital. The IDF sealed the area and launched a search for the terrorists.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1700 GMT on 4 June adds: "In the Gaza Strip a wanted suspect was captured this morning by Israeli soldiers in the al-Burayj refugee camp. The camp was placed under curfew and during the search by soldiers the suspect was apprehended. A Qol Yisra'el reporter that he is a member of the Red Eagle group linked to the Popular Front organization, and has been on the wanted list for some time. A local resident who helped him hide from the security forces was also arrested."]

Arab Killed Near Tulkarm; Roadside Bomb Reported

TA0506102293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] An inhabitant of Bal'a near Tulkarm was killed this morning by soldiers' gunfire. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reports that an IDF unit operating in the village identified a suspect. Following arrest procedures, the soldiers called on him to halt. However, when he did not, the commander of the unit shot at him. The man was seriously wounded, and died soon afterward. The IDF is looking into the circumstances of the incident.

Local villagers told our correspondent Moti Amir that the dead man is Ibrahim Muhammad 'Abd-al-Raziq, approximately 50 years old and the father of 10 children. According to them, the man was working in a field near his home. An IDF patrol driving by called on him to halt, but the man apparently did not realize the call was being addressed at him. The soldiers opened fire and killed him, the villagers said.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 5 June reports: "A roadside bomb was activated today on a patrol road near Moshav Sheqef in the southern part of

the Judaea Mountains, when a jeep of the Nature Reserves Authority was driving by. Nobody was hurt, but the jeep was damaged. Our correspondent Yehudit Yehezqeli reports that Army and police forces are currently searching the area."]

Man 'Seriously Wounded' in Explosion

TA0506150493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] A man was seriously wounded by the explosion of a roadside bomb near Moshav Sheqef in the southern part of the Judaea Mountains. A military helicopter was alerted to evacuate him to a hospital. Our correspondent Yehudit Yehezqeli notes that this morning a roadside bomb was set off near a Nature Reserves Authority jeep. There were no injuries in that incident, but the jeep was damaged.

Gaza Woman Detained After Trying To Stab Soldier

TA0506154693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] A 20-year-old resident of the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp tried to stab an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier on foot patrol in the refugee camp this afternoon. The soldier was not hurt, and the patrol's soldiers apprehended the young woman and detained her for interrogation.

Selection of Elite Commanders Gives Priority to Territories

TA0606120193 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 6 Jun 93 p 9

[Editorial: "The Best Go to the Territories"]

[Text] The current priority given to military control over the territories is reflected in the chief of staff's decision to appoint two excellent officers—from the front rank of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] brigadier generals—as commanders of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The decision was approved by Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister.

Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq appointed Brigadier General Sha'ul Mufaz commander of the West Bank division, and Brigadier General Doron Almog as commander of the Gaza Strip division. Gen. Mufaz—like Lt. Gen. Baraq, Central Command Commander Nehemya Tamari, and outgoing West Bank commander Moshe Ya'alon before him—commanded the General Staff's elite commando unit. Gen. Almog commanded, among others, the paratrooper's commando unit and the Paratrooper's Brigade—two posts Southern Command Commander Matan Vilna'i had held a decade earlier.

Mufaz, Almog, and Ya'alon are on every list speculating the Army's future major generals, certainly for as long as Baraq has a say in this matter. Until several years ago, command of IDF units in the territories was not considered a significant rung on the ladder to higher Army command posts. The fact that such gifted officers have now been assigned to these posts, indicates that the Army has the acumen to adjust to the current reality. The reality is that events in the territories and their political and defense consequences can significantly affect crucial moments when serious political efforts are being made.

A daily war in which there is no decisive victory is being waged in the West Bank, in the Gaza Strip (where Almog will be replacing Brigadier General Yom-Tov Sami'), and to a certain extent also in south Lebanon (where Gabi Ashkenazi, another gifted brigadier general, commands the liaison unit and, in fact, also controls the South Lebanese Army). The mission order says that Israel and its residents should be provided with the security they need. Conversely, no one entertains the illusion that absolute success can be achieved. This is impossible when populations mix and borders are penetrable. The method of operation used is a war that is heavily based on intelligence and initiated activity—which seeks contact with the enemy (fugitives or Hizbal-lah), and therefore entails casualties among our forces.

The troops taking part in this war—the IDF platoon, the Border Police patrol, or the Shin Bet agent—may well be satisfied that their efforts increase the civilians' sense of security. The commanders, however, know that the real task is much broader: The Army must provide the government with the freedom to negotiate security and peace arrangements with the Palestinians and other Arabs. Calmer territories and a panic-free Israeli public will increase the Rabin government's maneuverability.

If the negotiations prove successful, Generals Almog and Mufaz, as well as the commanders of the regional commands and the chief of staff, might find themselves in direct confrontation with the settlers in the territories. This task also requires sensitive commanders who understand the intention of the commanding echelons and avoid unfortunate occurrences. Each era has its slogan. Years ago (when we were still engaged in an all-out war) the center of attention was on the airborne combat units. Then, the IDF was looking for The Best To Be Fliers. Now, at least among the top commanding ranks and elite units stationed there, the best are to be in the territories.

Sarid: No More Nuclear Reactors To Be Built

TA0506102893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] The Environment Ministry will not allow the construction of nuclear reactors in Israel, in addition to those operating at the moment, as long as a new generation of foolproof nuclear reactors is not developed, Minister Yosi Sarid stated in an interview. He emphasized that efforts are currently under way in Germany and France to develop foolproof nuclear reactors, but their development will not be completed any time soon.

Our correspondent Shula Schmerling points out that the meaning of this announcement is that the Environment Ministry will not allow the construction of the nuclear power station that Israel Electricity Company wants to build at the Shivta site in the Negev.

Plan To Link Territories Cities, Ports Denied

TA0606065193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by Ya'el Dan and Gay Zohar—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Dan] Minister Ben-Eli'ezer, we would like to hear your comment on a report published in THE JERUSALEM POST last Friday, according to which the Construction and Housing Ministry is planning a major project of highways to be built from Judaea and Samaria towns to the State of Israel's air and sea ports in anticipation of the autonomy era. According to the report, these axes will receive vast budgets, partly from revised priorities and partly from the U.S. loan guarantees. The total investment is supposed to stand at 1.2 billion shekels this year and over 2 billion next year. What can you say about this report?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] All I can say about this report is that it is totally unfounded. I would say it is very odd, because from the day this government was established until today, we have adhered to our resolution not to invest a cent in the territories.

[Dan] But this falls in another category of investment, does it not?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Yes, yes, for the simple reason that it is absolutely obvious that if we make an investment, it will be in roads crossing the country lengthwise from the south to the north. We are talking about route No. 6, a network of roads with which I have never had anything to do—either with budgets or loan guarantees—in my capacity as construction and housing minister, and neither does it interest me. I believe the investment will not come from the guarantees, because this is not the purpose of the guarantees.

As to your question of whether we are planning anything: We are planning to build many roads, including some east-west ones. But these will not be built from, say the Jericho or the Damiya Bridge areas. This is not the objective. A portion of the budgets of billions of shekels that we have earmarked for highways will be invested in east-west roads, and when they are built, they will accidentally fulfill the additional function of facilitating access to air and sea ports.

[Dan] Isn't such an investment supposed to please the Americans?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Look, each investment in infrastructure, and certainly investment which reflects long-term planning for the era of peace, should please. But to answer your question on whether this will be done from guarantees funds: No, it has nothing to do with the guarantees. We are not doing that, and we are definitely not building roads in the territories. Even if we decide to build east-west thoroughfares, we will build them inside Israel proper.

[Zohar] Thank you very much, Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer.

Spanish King To Visit in Fall; Rabin Trip Announced

TA0506140493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Spain's King Juan Carlos will visit Israel next fall. The Foreign Ministries of the two countries are holding discussions regarding the details of the visit. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the Spanish king postponed a visit to Israel because of his father's illness several months ago.

Our correspondent also reports that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will make official visits to the Netherlands and France toward the end of the month.

Prime Minister Expresses Optimism for Peace Talks

JN0506071993 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Jun 93 pp 1, 26

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has expressed optimism about the prospects for Arab-Israeli negotiations.

In a telephone interview with the BBC, Dr. al-Majali said he believes an agreement between the Arabs and Israel may be reached by November.

He said there is a great hope about what will happen in the peace negotiations, adding that the United States has emphasized it will play an effective role in that regard. He expressed the belief that there are various signs that all sides—especially the other side—are seriously convinced peace is for the good of everyone, not just for one party.

Asked about increasing opposition to the peace process among Palestinian grass roots, and how to deal with it, Dr. al-Majali said the real remedy is to acquaint the public with what is happening, telling the people that the negotiations are long, complicated, and require patience and care. It is impossible to realize something that satisfies everybody. He stressed it should be made clear that the peace process is not desperate.

The prime minister said: After eight successive rounds, we succeeded in establishing an agenda, and the other parties offered proposals and exchanged documents and papers. This means the process is going on, but everyone has his own way of assessing it. He said: The process is not in vain. The parties are now acquainted with the various positions of the other parties. In most cases, there has been seriousness in the talks, but all tracks have not realized what they want.

On Washington's role in the peace process and its ineffectiveness during the ninth round, Dr. al-Majali said there are political circumstances in the United States and Israel that do not make this role a clear one, adding that time was not adequate. He said some signs indicate Washington's role may be positive.

He said the 10th round of negotiations may be held in mid-June. The foreign ministers of the Arab cordon states will meet in Amman, tomorrow, Sunday [6 June], to evaluate the peace process.

Meets With U.S. Congressman

JN0506170293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] At noon today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, prime minister and foreign minister, received in his office at the Prime Ministry Harry Johnston, member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman. They reviewed developments in the Middle East and the peace process after the conclusion of the ninth round of negotiations in Washington. The prime minister stressed Jordan's adherence to international legitimacy, and emphasized the need to implement the UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338. He also stressed the need to regain the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights.

The prime minister voiced Jordan's concern over the continued bad conditions in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as a result of the Israeli occupation authorities' arbitrary measures. He asserted that these measures do not serve the peace process in any way whatsoever.

Johnston affirmed that his country is aware of the important Jordanian role in the peace process, underlining His Majesty King Husayn's wise approach toward making the Middle East a stable and prosperous region. The meeting also dealt with bilateral relations, particularly in the economic field, and ways to promote them in the interest of both friendly countries.

Criticized by Muslim Brotherhood

JN0706074793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Jun 93 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Excerpts] Amman—Foreign ministers of the Arab parties to the Middle East peace process and Egypt said Sunday they would seek more U.S. and Russian intervention in the negotiations to ensure progress in the stalemated talks but fell short of directly announcing their agreement to attend the 10th round of negotiations, scheduled to begin in Washington on June 15. [passage omitted]

While the final communique did not include a direct Arab announcement that the Arabs would attend the 10th round of talks, officials said earlier that such a decision was a foregone conclusion.

Delegates said the decision was implicit in the communique.

Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said earlier that Jordan and Israel were nearing an agreement on a draft agenda for their negotiations that was initially reached in the seventh round of talks last year.

"We have almost already finalised and finished with our agenda with its substance. Still we have minor problems with the language (but these) will be cleared soon," Dr. al-Majali told journalists after welcoming the ministers to the meeting as men of peace, seeking a just and lasting settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. [passage omitted]

The Muslim Brotherhood, the largest bloc in Jordan's Parliament, meanwhile called on the Arab conferees to

withdraw from the peace process and vowed to "resist it with all possible ways and means."

The Brotherhood criticised Dr. al-Majali for saying that Jordan had made progress in finalising an agenda for negotiations with Israel.

It said the agenda ignored core issues related to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

[Minister of State For Foreign Affairs] Talal al-Hasan, also a member of the Jordanian team, told the Associated Press Jordan had "deliberately slowed down the process of negotiations with Israel in the ninth round because we saw the Palestinians lagging behind."

The Arabs have an understanding that no separate peace agreements will be reached with Israel before the Palestinians thrash out a settlement on the future of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A senior PLO official, speaking after the first session Sunday, said the Palestinians asked the conferees to consider pressing for high-level meeting of the Arabs involved in the peace talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to pin down the Americans on key issues. He did not elaborate.

But Sulayman al-Najjab, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, said earlier Sunday that the Palestinians want the Americans to pledge that the talks will lead to Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights.

Islamic Deputies Urge Arab Ministers To Stop Negotiations

JN0706074193 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Jun 93 p 28

[Text] Muslim Brotherhood deputies have called on the Arab cordon states foreign ministers meeting in Amman to put an end to the negotiations which "entrench the existence of the Zionist entity on the land of Palestine and recognize it as a legitimate entity."

They also urged the foreign ministers to halt all moves aimed at normalizing relations with the Zionist enemy, and to "put an end to policies of relaxation and idleness which enabled the Jews to settle." Brotherhood deputies also urged moral and material support for the Palestinian people, mobilizing the nation for jihad and preparing it for fighting and liberation.

This came in a statement issued by the Islamic bloc on the 26th anniversary of the June war and the 10th round of Arab-Israeli negotiations. The statement noted that the June war was a theatrical that ended with the occupation of the remainder of Palestine, Sinai, and the Golan.

Government Receives Invitation to Peace Talks

JN0506201693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, today stated that the Jordanian Government has received an official invitation from the cosponsors of the peace conference—the United States and the Russian Federation—to resume the bilateral peace talks in Washington mid-June.

Prime Minister Receives Lebanese Chief Delegate

JN0606094293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, prime minister and foreign minister, received Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the bilateral peace talks with Israel, in his office this morning. Shammas congratulated Dr. al-Majali on forming the new government, wishing him and the government success in serving Jordan, joint Arab issues, and relations between the two fraternal countries.

Shammas' visit to Jordan comes within the visit of the Lebanese delegation to participate in the meetings of the Arab parties concerned with the peace process which will begin today.

Prime Minister Leaves for Damascus Talks

NC0506160293 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1550 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] We were informed a short time ago that Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left Beirut Airport at 1830 for Damascus aboard his private plane for talks with senior officials on current local and regional issues.

Prime Minister Returns

NC0606133293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri arrived at Beirut airport from Damascus this afternoon after holding talks with high- ranking Syrian officials on local and international developments.

Al-Hariri Comments on Talks

NC0706062293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi will meet with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri today to review the latest developments and the outcome of the latter's talks in Damascus with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi.

Al-Hariri praised the deep fraternal cooperation between Lebanon and Syria in all areas. He said that Syria's unlimited support for Lebanon will continue, noting that this support has enabled Lebanon to regain some of its strength. He expressed hope that Lebanon will regain all its strength soon through the efforts of all sincere Lebanese.

Al-Hariri said that coordination over the stages of the peace process was high on the agenda of his talks in Damascus, along with bilateral ties and Arab and international issues of common concern. He stressed that Arab coordination is the most important Arab weapon in the difficult battle for peace that the Arabs are waging along the four tracks of talks with Israel. He noted that the Arabs are determined and genuinely eager to establish a just and comprehensive peace that will provide all countries in the region opportunities for development and prosperity.

Buwayz Comments on Peace Talks

NC0606090993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz left for Amman today to participate in the Arab foreign ministers meeting, which will evaluate the outcome of the ninth round of the peace talks. The foreign ministers will also coordinate Arab stands preparatory to the 10th round of negotiations, slated to be held in Washington on 14 June.

Buwayz had the following to say at Beirut Airport:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Your Excellency, as is known, you are leaving Beirut today to attend the Amman meeting. What Lebanese ideas will you present to the meeting?

[Buwayz] Actually, this meeting will conduct a meticulous assessment of what has been achieved so far and current developments associated with the peace talks. No doubt, the ninth round has not produced the expected full results. Hence, a clear-cut Arab plan must be drawn up for the resumption of the talks. This plan must first ensure the unity of the Arab stand, and second, ensure a clear vision regarding how to deal with the proposed topics.

[Correspondent] You received an invitation yesterday to attend the 10th round. Do you believe the 10th round will be like the previous ones?

[Buwayz] Indeed, the peace talks have gone on too long. These talks should have yielded more progress. No doubt, questions are being raised concerning these talks. Therefore, we have always said and we continue to say that these talks need to be reassessed radically so that we may move out of the framework of the technical and tactical negotiations and begin discussing vital and significant topics.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, do you believe that the United States will pressure Israel?

[Buwayz] We hope that this will happen since the United States has since the start of these talks and the Madrid conference drawn up a plan to play an active mediating role in urging the sides to implement the principles of the Madrid conference.

[Correspondent] Our last question, Your Excellency. To what extent will the issue of the Libyan pilgrims affect the Amman meeting and Arab solidarity?

[Buwayz] This issue was treated frivolously. At any rate, we believe that it is bound to create confusion in the Arab ranks and give interpretations that are not in harmony with Arab interests at this particular time. [end recording]

Buwayz Notes Agreement Over Talks

NC0706110393 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Statement by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz on his return from Jordan, followed by answers to unidentified reporters' questions, at Beirut airport on 7 June—recorded]

[Text] [Buwayz] The decision that was made, expressed in the cordon states' final statement, illustrates unity of ranks and identity of views among all the parties. I must also say that this coordinating meeting operated, not for

first the time, at a high standard in submitting information, analysing it, and assessing matters. This helps in formulating a united and clear Arab view on how to handle developments.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, what agreement was reached to urge the peace conference cosponsors to pressure Israel...

[Buwayz, interrupting] Comprehensive matters are agreed on at such meetings: first, the technicalities of the negotiations, several arrangements connected with talks, the broad outlines of the core issues, and the so-called red lines in the Arab position. We discussed all these points: how the delegations performed during the delegation and the core issue under discussion.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, how can the U.S. sponsor make its role in the negotiations more effective?

[Buwayz] The U.S. sponsor has a basic role. The Madrid Conference was founded on the premise that the United States would play a promotional and sponsoring role, not merely with regard to formalities and logistics, but in essential matters. This role is an indivisible part of the peace conference, indeed part of the foundation of this conference. Perhaps the Arab countries might not have joined the conference without this U.S. role. We have frequently stated that our joining the conference was not a wager on Israel's wish for peace or its willingness to seek it, as much as it hinged on U.S. assurances and guarantees.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, there have been reports that the conferees in Amman agreed that the 10th round will be the last opportunity to achieve progress in the negotiations. How true are these reports?

[Buwayz] I do not want to discuss final or semi-final opportunities. I wish to say, however, that this conference needs to be given some momentum and backing, particularly by the United States. Of course there are difficulties in the way. These difficulties must be radically remedied by discussing the core issues and pursuing the negotiations in a profound, history- conscious way that avoids maneuvers and superficial negotiating.

[In a related item, Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 0915 GMT on 7 June reports the following recorded remarks, made by Foreign Minister Buwayz after briefing President Ilyas al-Hirawi on the cordon states meeting in Amman: "We agreed totally on how to assess the issues. Our views were identical. There was also total agreement about future steps with respect to the technicalities of the negotiations amd their substance."

["[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, do you think the 10th round will be better than the ninth?"

["[Buwayz] Speculating is difficult because the issue depends on a large number of variables: the negotiating process itself, several regional issues, their implications, and more than one party. Hence speculation is difficult. However, there is no doubt that these negotiations are moving slowly and have so far not yielded the hoped-for results. This makes us say: A firm and decisive U.S. intervention is indispensable because a large part of the peace process is based on U.S. sponsorsphip."

["[Correspondent] What are you asking the United States specifically to do?"

["[Buwayz] It must draw from the various parties' positions the points that are congruous with the Madrid Conference principles and then formulate them into a proposal to the concerned sides and ask them to implement it."

["[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, we notice that progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track [words indistinct]."

["[Buwayz] The Jordanian-Israeli problem is not intractable, is not connected with the core issues the way the Lebanese, Syrian, or Palestinian problems are. Therefore, progress on the Jordanian track does not necessarily spell out progress for the other tracks."

["[Correspondent] Do you expect to see progress in the 10th round on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks?"

["[Buwayz] This is what is required if they really want the peace conference to succeed."]

Buwayz, U.S., Russian Ambassadors Discuss Peace Talks

NC0506123893 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz met U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker and Russian Ambassador Gennadiy Ilichev this afternoon. Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan, Foreign Ministry secretary general, attended the meeting. Buwayz also met with Simon Karam, Lebanon's ambassador to Washington, and is now meeting with Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, deputy head of the Lebanese negotiating delegation, who arrived in Beirut yesterday after having been summoned by Buwayz.

Speaking after the meeting, the U.S. ambassador said that he had discussed with Buwayz the resumption of the peace talks. He hoped that the talks will resume soon so that they could lead to speedy and practical progress. He noted that once the parties return to the negotiating table, the cosponsors of the peace conference will be eager to play an effective role in this regard.

For his part, Russian Ambassador Ilichev said: We discussed the negotiation process and hope that an agreement will be reached to resume the Arab-Israeli talks this month. He pointed out that he had handed Buwayz a message from the Russian foreign minister. He added: In the message, we made an assessment of the results of the preceding rounds of talks and expressed our readiness to continue exerting efforts so that the peace process may steadily advance in the interest of all parties. Ilichev added: Consultations among the parties

concerned continue and we hope that an agreement will be reached as soon as possible.

Sources: Official Invitation Received

NC0506161993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, deputy head of the Lebanese negotiating delegation, stated yesterday that Washington continues to play the role of a full partner and believes that the talks are in open session and as such, there is no need to send invitations to the 10th round. However, Lebanese Foreign Ministry sources today stressed that the Russian and U.S. ambassadors, who visited Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz today, handed him an official invitation to the 10th round of talks to be held on 15 June.

Makkawi: U.S. To Play Effective Role

NC0406200893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, deputy head of the Lebanese delegation to the peace talks with Israel, has stressed that the United States will play an effective role as a partner to the peace talks. He noted that the United States is committed to the peace process and wants the negotiations to continue and succeed. He made this statement after his return to Beirut to receive instructions from senior officials regarding the peace negotiations and to participate in the cordon states foreign ministers conference in Amman.

Transport Minister Comments on U.S. Travel Ban

NC0406100793 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] In an interview with our radio in which he commented on the U.S. Department of Transportation's decision to cancel travel bookings to Lebanon, 'Umar Misqawi, minister of state for transport affairs, called on the United States to translate its statements on Lebanon into deeds. Our correspondent in Tripoli Michel Karam reports:

[Begin recording] [Karam] As the minister in charge of transport, why is the situation in Lebanon not safe?

[Misqawi] Regarding the daily situation in Lebanon, we feel that it is not only safe but also stable. This is what we are saying. As to what the United States is saying about this, we are surprised that such an action has been taken and such a warning was issued by the U.S. Administration when preparations are underway to hold the 10th round of the peace negotiations. We believe and feel that whenever there are bilateral negotiations, the aim is always to weaken the Arab side. It is not through arguments that the Arab side is weakened, but by creating a situation that puts the Arab negotiator in a weak position vis-a-vis the issue of security and stability. This applies especially to Lebanon because we are demanding that Israel leave Lebanese territory. The Lebanese Army is capable of ensuring security and stability inside the country, and therefore is capable of protecting all its borders. This is the basis of the Lebanese argument during the negotiations on the issue of Resolution 425. Such decisions appear parallel to our demand in order to weaken the Lebanese position. This is what we believe. This is why we are calling on the U.S. Administration—which always reiterates its policy of support for Lebanon and its stability—to translate these words into deeds in all spheres of action, especially in the issue of travel to Lebanon.

We do not interfere in the issue of whether the Middle East Airlines company has violated U.S. Administration decisions or not. This is the U.S. Administration's affair. But we are calling on this administration to cancel these decisions as they endanger its power to sponsor the negotiations.

[Karam] The decision does not affect the Lebanese company alone but also other companies?

[Misqawi] Yes. All companies are affected by an old decision. We are not interfering in their decision to remind the companies of this measure at this time or in their claim that the situation is not normal. What we are saying is this: The basis for all these measures is a decision from 1975, but we are now in 1993. The U.S. Administration should cancel this decision if it really and credibly supports and backs Lebanon.

[Karam] As a government member, what contacts have been made regarding this issue?

[Misqawi] I have sent a detailed message to his excellency the foreign minister. He replied that the U.S. ambassador stresses that this is a routine administrative measure and has nothing to do with U.S. policy. We want this answer to be satisfactory and final. But this is not what we are seeing from the U.S. position.

[Karam] Can you tell us the identity of the U.S. parties that were contacted?

[Misqawi] Contacts were made with the foreign minister who contacted the U.S. ambassador. Our contacts abroad are done through the foreign ministry. [end recording]

Buwayz on U.S. Travel Ban

NC0406094193 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] Commenting on the U.S. Department of Transportation decision to cancel travel bookings to Lebanon, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said the situation in Lebanon has drastically changed, adding that it is high time that the United States reassessed the security situation in Lebanon.

In an interview with our radio, Buwayz stressed that the Lebanese Foreign Ministry is following up the subject. It

has appealed to Washington to reconsider the reasons that prompted this decision several years ago. Buwayz noted that this decision is not new; it is designed to implement an earlier decision made several years ago. He expressed the belief that there is nothing new on the political level in this decision, which is an administrative move to implement an earlier decision.

Commenting on reports that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher might visit the region shortly, Buwayz said: Although the peace process requires such a visit, we have no information about a possible visit by the U.S. secretary.

Answering a question on whether the Lebanese Foreign Ministry has sought clarification from Washington about this tour, Buwayz said: We have requested such clarification through our ambassador in Washington. But up to now we have no information indicating that such a visit will take place.

Buwayz denied that the Lebanese Foreign Ministry has received an invitation for the 10th round. He considered the new Jordanian prime minister's stand on the possibility of concluding agreements before the end of this year as an analytical political stand more than a declaration of a stand. He said all parties, including the United States and perhaps Israel, now have a firm belief that this peace should be comprehensive or there would be no peace. He doubted that any party will adopt unilateral steps outside the framework of the Madrid Conference formula or outside a solidarity and detente framework.

British Minister Discusses Reconstruction

NC0306183493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Britain gave its views on the reconstruction of Lebanon at a seminar attended by British Housing and Planning Minister George Young and representatives of specialized British companies.

Young arrived in Beirut yesterday evening leading a delegation comprising representatives of 16 British companies specialized in building and reconstruction. At noon today, he attended a seminar on Britain's views on the reconstruction of Lebanon, held at the Bristol Hotel. Ministers Marwan Hamadah and Fu'ad Sinyurah and Development and Reconstruction Council Chairman al-Fadl Shalaq attended the seminar.

Young said the challenge we are facing is how to find the right balance between the old and the new. He said: The Beirut of our dreams will have to satisfy more requirements than those needed from old Beirut. We must turn our attention primarily to the rehabilitation of the existing networks whenever possible. He added: We have a host of current and past experiences to offer our Lebanese partners. He said he is sure we are moving toward the renovation of Beirut as a thriving economic, cultural, and intellectual center of the Middle East. [passage omitted]

UK Minister Departs

NC0506102393 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Excerpt] British Planning and Housing Minister George Young left Beirut this morning following a several-day visit during which he held talks with senior Lebanese officials that dealt with possible British contribution to Lebanon's reconstruction. [passage omitted]

Islamic Leader: Libyan Pilgrimage 'Religious Sin'

NC0306172093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Deputy Dr. Fathi Yak An, secretary general of the Islamic Group, said the Libyan pilgrims' visit to Jerusalem is a religious sin, a tampering with the Islamic shari'ah, and an extremely serious political crime. He called on religious leaders to make their position known and not remain silent.

Delegation Leaves for World Bank Meeting

NC0306145193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Anwar al-Khalil, minister of state for Chamber of Deputies Affairs, left Beirut today for Washington at the head of a delegation to attend the meeting of the World Bank and the UN Development Program [as heard], which will be held in the U.S. capital 7-11 June.

The Lebanese delegation will hold talks with officials from the World Bank and the U.S. Agency for International Development. The delegation includes Hasan Shalaq, head of the Civil Service Council; Nadim al-Mulla, adviser at the Finance Ministry; and 'Ali Sarhal, adviser to the head of the Development and Reconstruction Council.

Army Conducts Exercises in Sidon Area

NC0306142793 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 27 May 93 p 5

[Text] A 7th Army brigade yesterday conducted land and naval exercises along the coast in Sidon. Tanks shelled mock targets in the sea, and military vessels conducted maneuvers and set up a cordon around the targets that were shelled. They also prevented fishermen from coming close to the targets.

The exercise—the first the Army has conducted in the Sidon area since 1975—began after midnight on 25 May and continued throughout the day on 26 May. The exercise was supervised by Brigade Commander Colonel Abu-Hamzah and his staff and a number of staff officers from the Southern Military Command.

A military source said "the exercise was very successful in terms of discipline and the level of training, which was evident in the high rate of direct hits scored on the designated targets."

Suspended Paper Allowed To Resume Publication

NC0506102493 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] The Beirut Publications Court has held a session under Judge 'Afif Shams-al-din, assisted by Katina Ghulam and Bernard Shuwayri, at which it decided to extend the suspension of the newspaper NIDA' AL-WATAN until 6 June 1993 and allow the paper to reappear as of 7 June 1993. The court declared the case open and summoned Rajih Khuri, Faris Kan'an, 'Adnan Hutayt, Pierre al-Qadi, and Marcel al-Turk to testify in the next trial session on 8 July 1993.

SLA Commander Supports Return of Displaced

NC0606115193 Paris AFP in English 1123 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Marj 'Uyun, Lebanon, June 6 (AFP)—The head of Israel's proxy militia has said he supports the return of people displaced by Lebanon's civil war to their homes, including Israel's self-declared security zone in south Lebanon.

Retired Lebanese General Antoine Lahd, who heads the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, told AFP late Saturday that he encouraged the return of all displaced persons.

He was commenting on a project by the Lebanese minister of state for displaced persons, Walid Junblatt, to return such people to their homes.

"We cannot prevent people from coming to the security zone, even if they have political affiliations but we object to the entry of those—and they are numerous—who present security problems or who carried out operations in the region or against the SLA," Lahd said at his militia's headquarters here.

Some 130,000 people, including 80,000 Shiite Muslims live in the 1,000-square-kilometer (400-square-mile) border strip. According to Lahd more than half his militia's 2,500 troops are Shiites.

The repatriation of displaced persons is, in part, hampered by the case of thousands of Shiites originally from the security zone who fled to Beirut and its southern suburbs and who fear retaliatory measures if they return.

"We know that three-quarters of the security zone's Shiites back the (pro-Syrian) Amal movement and some the (pro-Iranian) Hizballah movement. We even have here in Marj 'Uyun several communists and members of the Syrian National Social Party," which advocates a Greater Syria, Lahd said.

More than 450,000 people have been forced to flee their homes during 15 years of civil war, according to various estimates.

Al-Hariri Praises Government Efforts

NC0706073393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Excerpt] In a statement to REUTER, Prime Minister Rafiq al- Hariri said that one of the seven-month-old government's most important achievements is that financial establishments, investors, and major foreign companies have begun to take Lebanon seriously. He said: There is a very big difference in Lebanon between now and when the government was formed. One can imagine how Lebanon was then and what it is like now, he said.

Al-Hariri said: Naturally, there are certain political opponents who perhaps bet that the government would fall. They have discovered that the government will remain in power, is popular with the people, and is achieving something every day.

Responding to those who have criticized him, al-Hariri said that they have no ideas or credibility, stressing that Lebanon is proceeding toward eliminating all effects of the civil war. He said that opponents have begun to rally themselves to form an opposition front, but this opposition has no support. He said that the Phalangist Party, which failed in running the country during the last 30 years, wanted certain people appointed to administrative jobs, but that his government did not do this. He said that therefore, the party formed an opposition front.

Al-Hariri said that former Speaker Husayn al-Husayni was left out of the government and is trying to establish an opposition front, but that he will not succeed. He pointed out that the opposition will fail because the Lebanese people support his government and acknowledge its success. He said that the opposition has no credibility and is offering nothing, yet it is content to say that things are not going well, which is nonsense.

Al-Hariri said Lebanon expects to receive a large number of visitors this summer and that he is rebuilding as quickly as possible the infrastructure destroyed by the war. He said the most important thing the government has accomplished during its short time in office is that we now have a country that enjoys confidence internally and abroad, noting that all parties now take Lebanon seriously. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Receives Invitation To Resume Talks

JN0506092393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Syria has received an invitation from the United States and the Russian Federation, in their capacities as sponsors of the peace conference, to resume the peace talks in Washington on 15 June.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received the invitation when he received the U.S. and Russian charges d'affaires this morning. At the meeting, the foreign minister said the invitation will be discussed at the Arab coordination meeting in Amman tomorrow in order to take a unified position on it.

Foreign Minister Returns From Amman Meeting

JN0706062193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his accompanying delegation returned to Damascus at dawn today after participating in the coordination meeting of the Arab parties to the peace talks, which concluded in Amman on 6 June.

Al-Shar' was seen off at Amman airport by Talal al-Hasan, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs; Majid Abu-Salih, Syria's ambassador in Amman; the staff of the Syrian Embassy; senior Jordanian Foreign Ministry officials; and the Jordanian ambassador to Syria.

Pressure Urged on Israel To Promote Peace Talks

JN0606081893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 6 Jun 93

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial, the newspaper TISHRIN says: The Arab coordination meetings customarily held by the Arab sides participating in the Washington talks have undoubtedly turned into an indispensable forum for consultations, cooperation, and cohesion to ensure a unified Arab stand and formulate a comprehensive strategic perspective grounded in the components and bases of just and comprehensive peace. Hence, bolstering the joint Arab stand and strengthening the serious Arab efforts to activate the peace process have become extremely necessary for the Arabs in their endeavors to regain usurped rights and restore the occupied Arab territories.

TISHRIN adds: Israel has repeatedly attempted to peddle its proposals and plans with a view to splitting and breaching Arab ranks, but to no avail. These Israeli attempts, however, still require the Arab sides to make selfless, concerted, and immense efforts to strengthen pan-Arab ties and thwart Israeli plans to undermine and weaken the Arab position. The Arabs must endeavor to thwart any possible Israeli attempt to deal with the Arab sides one at a time in order to impose its deceptive dictates and maneuvers on this or that party.

The paper goes on to say: The coordination meeting due to be held in Amman today by the foreign ministers of the Arab sides concerned with the peace process has special and profound significance, given the stalemate in the peace process caused by Israel's intransigence, its provocative policy, and its maneuvers, which reflect a lack of desire on its part to achieve true, durable, and comprehensive peace. Indeed, Israel's positions and practices show that the Rabin government is still full of rancor and entrenched in hostile and expansionist plans.

The paper wonders: Otherwise, how are we to explain the fact that Israel has remained engaged in promoting falsehoods and fabrications since the convocation of the Madrid peace conference up to now—a period of more than one and a half years, during which numerous rounds of talks were held in Washington? How are we to explain the fact that the talks continued to mark time, and failed to make any progress with respect to principles, without Israel making a clear and unmistakable commitment to honor these principles in implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, which provide for exchanging land for peace? Moreover, how are we to explain the fact that Israel has evaded the components of peace and called into serious question the terms of reference of the peace process to the extent that it rejected these terms and opposed withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories?

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on the same issue, saying: The Arab sides directly concerned with the peace process will hold a coordination meeting today to evaluate the outcome of the ninth round of talks, discuss the future of the peace process in light of the invitation to a new round of talks, and confront the evasive Israeli positions, which aim to split Arab ranks, kill the entire peace process, and seriously jeopardize the situation in the region. It is important for the Arabs to adhere to their pan-Arab constants, demonstrate such adherence, and act according to these constants to prevent any evasive Israeli move from breaching this or that track.

AL-THAWRAH adds: It is clear that Israeli positions, prior to or after the ninth round of talks, have remained unchanged. Its policies have remained the same. These positions and policies betray the hostile and expansionist nature of the Zionist plan, which is the antithesis of peace.

AL-THAWRAH wonders about the credibility of the U.S. role, maintaining that a credible role is required to render the peace process a success, particularly since such a success would serve the interests of all parties, not to mention world interests, given the vital importance of the region to the world.

The paper asks: How are we to view the double standards reflected in the conduct of the full partner, as made perfectly clear in its handling of international issues? How should the proper intervention of the full partner

be? The latter question, the paper notes, is of crucial importance, since it is important for such intervention not to be biased toward the aggressor, which is the full partner's strategic ally that enjoys the military, financial, economic, and political support of this partner. These are questions we pose to the whole world at a time when the peace process is experiencing a delicate and crucial phase, particularly since Israel could manage to bring about the collapse of this process. Should this happen, the collapse of the peace process would have dire consequences for the countries of the region and would jeopardize world security and peace as well as the credibility of some powers which have begun to nurse delusions regarding the new world order, drawing on the international variables which have thus far failed to stabilize.

Concluding its editorial, AL-THAWRAH says: This makes it incumbent on the party which launched the peace initiative to render it a success. This party should also demonstrate seriousness by bringing pressure to bear on the party creating obstacles; namely, Israel.

Commentary Urges U.S. To Exert Influence on Israel

JN0406155193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1134 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Killings, oppression, and demolition continue in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The treacherous Israeli bullets have killed or wounded numerous Arab citizens. Moreover, the occupation forces have launched more savage attacks on southern Lebanese villages and townships.

Observers do not rule out the possibility that Israel, as usual, may escalate tensions and aggravate the situation in the region in the wake of talk about a 10th round of bilateral negotiations in Washington this month and the scheduled meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab states directly concerned with the peace process in Amman on Sunday. This is because the Tel Aviv rulers—who have deliberately foiled the Washington talks, sidetracking them from their objectives and submerging them in a futile debate on issues unrelated to the substance of peace—are planning for an Arab withdrawal from these talks, so they can hold the Arabs responsible for the failure of the peace process.

For this purpose, the Tel Aviv rulers adopt a dual policy: They maneuver and procrastinate during negotiations while escalating repression in the occupied territories in a serious and provocative manner. Circles in the Rabin government have disclosed that since the West Bank and Gaza Strip were sealed off, Israeli troops have been doubled there on the pretext of searching for wanted persons. In southern Lebanon, the Israeli Army incessantly shells defenseless villages and townships, and the enemy aircraft have even overflown Beirut.

This aggressive policy is an essential part of the Zionist plan against the Arab region. The Tel Aviv rulers regard peace as something that would destroy their expansionist schemes. Therefore, they reluctantly attended the Madrid conference and the Washington peace talks, and they are awaiting an appropriate opportunity to torpedo the entire peace process. Viewed by the international community and upheld by the Arabs, peace means withdrawal from all occupied territories and recognition of Palestinian rights. The Tel Aviv rulers, however, do not seek withdrawal or recognition of these rights. They seek to keep Israel an open entity with no demarcated border which is liable to continued expansion.

After the June 1967 war, didn't Moshe Dayan say that Israel's borders exist wherever Israeli soldiers stand? The Arabs are fully aware of Zionism's essence and objectives in the region, so they responded to the international community's efforts in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace stemming from the UN resolutions. By so doing, the Arabs have placed the responsibility at the feet of the influential Security Council member states, particularly the United States. If the peace process succeeds, thanks to pressure from the international community, the Arabs will regain their territories. If it does not succeed, as a result of the procrastinations of the Tel Aviv rulers, Israel will expose itself as an aggressive and expansionist entity which is thirsty for war, expansion, and occupation. If this takes place, White House officials should then explain to the Americans and the world the reasons behind their immense aid to Israel and their strategic alliance with an entity that rejects peace and daily violates human rights and breaches the UN charters and resolutions.

We point out here that the Arab participation in the peace talks is a sincere one because the Arabs seek a just and comprehensive peace as proved by their response to the international efforts and calls and their practical proposals to promote the peace process. As usual, Israel has rejected these proposals.

A collapse of the peace process, after all efforts exerted and following the U.S. pledges, guarantees, and commitments, will harm both Israel and the influential world states. These states will then be held responsible for such a collapse by failing to honor their pledges and adopting a double-standard policy in dealing with world issues. It is no coincidence that in each coordination meeting, the foreign ministers of the Arab states participating in the Washington talks urge the cosponsors of the peace process to shoulder their responsibility and effectively intervene in order to render the peace talks successful and end the Israeli rebellion against the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The Arabs today want deeds and not words, realities and not promises, and a real Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories and not lectures on security. The Arabs have repeatedly responded to international efforts so that they may yield fruit. They today expect the United States, Russia, and Europe to make an effective move to

promotr the cause of justice, end the Palestinian people's suffering, and remove the Israeli occupation.

No doubt, the foreign ministers of the Arab states directly concerned with the peace process will stress the pan-Arab principles and emphasize their adherence to the Security Council resolutions as the basis of the sought peace. The pan-Arab solidarity and concern for a unified stand and vision, as shown by the Arab delegations which participated in the peace talks, have defeated Israel in all fields. This is because Israel's attempts to undermine the unified Arab stand and publicize distorted partial solutions and limited withdrawals have all failed. The only options available for Israel is either to yield to the international community's will or turn its back completely on the peace process.

The ball is in the Israeli and U.S. courts. The United States should translate its pledged role of a full and fair partner into pressures in order to implement the UN resolutions and achieve a just and comprehensive peace, which is desired by both the Middle East and the world.

Afghanistan

Hezb-e Eslami Attacks Army in Sarowbi 3 Jun

LD0406170293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] Despite the accord signed in Jalalabad concerning the establishment of a permanent cease-fire, yesterday the forces of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] belonging to Golboddin Hekmatyar resorted to a series of offensives on military posts of the Islamic Army located in Sarowbi and Neghlo [between Kabul and Nangarhar Province]. They were faced with stern resistance by the forces of the Islamic Army and were forced to retreat. An authoritive source in the Defense Ministry reported to a military correspondent of BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that in the course of these offensives, the invading forces suffered heavy losses and damage. A large number of their heavy and light weapons were captured by the units of the Islamic Army.

The source added that, as a result of the mediation and efforts by Ustad Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, leader of Ettehad-e Eslami-e of Afghanistan [Islamic Union Party], a cease-fire was established in that region yesterday afternoon at around 1550 hours.

Hezb-e Eslami 'Hostile Propaganda' Continues

LD0506213993 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Contrary to a request made by the peace delegation to put an end to hostile propaganda, Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] continues such propaganda, which is far from the truth. Hezb-e Eslami Spokesman Qarib ul-Rahman Sayed, in an interview last night with the BBC Pashto service, speaking about the alleged bombardment of the Sarowbi and Tagab regions by the Air Forces of the Islamic Army, said that a special circle of Jamiat-e Eslami [Islamic Society] who are in coalition with the remnants of the old regime are responsible for this conflict. Some time ago, however, the radio and television of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, in a statement, ended any type of propaganda against Hezb-e Eslami. A BAKHTAR military correspondent, quoting military sources, said that the reports relating to the bombardments in Sarowbi are mere fabrication. He added that a cease-fire has been observed in the last two days by the Islamic Army in Sarowbi. In connection with such hostile propaganda by Hezb-e Eslami, a high-ranking official of the Islamic State, in reply to a question by a BAKHTAR military correspondent, said that the peace delegation should take measures in this regard and persuade Hezb-e Eslami to aviod any type of hostile propaganda which damages the [word indistinct] interest.

Casualties, Damage Reported in Kabul Fighting

One Killed, 22 Injured

LD0506100893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Kabul, the capital city of Afghanistan, was last night the scene of sporadic clashes between the warring groups. A report from the Voice and Vision correspondent in Kabul says that the clashes were more intensified around the central silo and in Dasht-e Barchi in western Kabul. According to a Red Cross hospital spokesman in Kabul, last night's clashes left one person dead and 22 injured.

Missiles Fired

LD0506161293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Two SAKR-type missiles were fired at Kabul today. An authoritive security source has told a correspondent of the BAKHTAR military section that the missiles were fired from a southeasterly direction and landed in the ninth and 10th wards of the city. Fortunately, they did not cause any loss of life, although they inflicted considerable material damage.

Four Injured in Mortar Attack

LD0606181593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Four of our compatriots were injured today when 10 mortar shells landed in Kabul. Quoting a security source, a BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that the shells, fired from southeasterly and southwesterly directions, landed in Wards [words indistinct] 9 and 11 where they have caused much material damage.

India

Reportage on Babri Mosque 'Exorcism'

Muslims Flee Ayodhya

BK0506092693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0905 GMT 5 Jun 93

[By V.N. Arora]

[Text] Ayodhya, India, June 5 (AFP)—Muslims began fleeing Ayodhya on Saturday [5 June] as fears grew that a row between rival Hindu groups over a guru's plan to hold a prayer meeting near the razed Babri mosque could trigger clashes.

Paramilitary Rapid Action Force troops also moved into the pilgrim town a day ahead of guru Chandraswami's scheduled "Som Yagya," or prayer by fire, to "exorcise" the violence triggered in India by the mosque's destruction.

Some 2,000 people died in Hindu-Muslim rioting which rolled across the country after Hindu fanatics toppled the 16th-century mosque and built a makeshift temple to Hindu Lord Rama atop its ruins on December 6.

"Some 90 percent of Ayodhya's women and children have fled. Only men are here," said Wassi Ahmad Khan, chief of the Babri Mosque Action Committee, which is spearheading a drive for the resconstruction of the toppled Islamic shrine.

Eighty percent of the Muslim menfolk were staying away from their homes, the Muslim activist said, as 4,000 state policemen, mostly Hindu officers, moved into Ayodhya late Friday.

"We don't trust the state police," Khan said of the Uttar Pradesh officers who have been frequently accused of siding with Hindus in religious strife in the populous northern state and failed to prevent the mosque demolition.

He said many of Ayodhya's Muslims, numbering 4,300, have moved their belongings elsewhere fearing that a clash between Chandraswami's men and activists of an outlawed Hindu group would trigger rioting.

"We won't let December 6 repeat itself ... I will not permit any lawlessness," said Prakash Singh, police chief of Uttar Pradesh, where Ayodhya is located, 700 kilometres (420 miles) north from New Delhi.

The officer said the town's Muslim districts had been placed under a "security net" as a precaution against Hindu-led attacks on the minority religious community.

Hindu zealots after toppling the Babri shrine sacked about half of Ayodhya's more than 400 Muslim-owned homes and stores and razed 16 of its 60 mosques in a vicious attack on the night of December 6.

"Anything can happen tomorrow," said Khan, as some 500 Hindu holy men arrived here for Chandraswami's two-day prayer meeting for world peace and religious harmony in India.

The hawkish Vishwa Hindu Parisad (VHP, World Hindu Forum) has accused Chandraswami of trying to drive a wedge between the Hindu clergy.

The VHP, which was at the forefront of the drive to destroy the mosque, warned Friday that it would oppose Chandraswami's "exorcism" plans, widely seen here as a project backed by the ruling Congress (I) Party.

"Thousands of our men will reach Ayodhya if someone tries to reach the temple site," warned a local VHP spokesman.

The VHP, two other fundamentalist organisations and India's main Hindu revivalist opposition party believe that the meeting is part of a Congress (I) plot to hijack their campaign in overwhelmingly Hindu India.

After the sacrilege, Prime Minister Rao, a devotee of Chandraswami, had promised to re-build the Babri mosque as well as a temple but the plan never materialised because of the growing opposition from the Hindu parties.

The millionaire Indian guru, who claims to be close to kings and presidents, has invited 1,001 Hindu priests to the meeting with promises of gold and silver gifts.

Residents Stay Away

BK0606085893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0823 GMT 6 Jun 93

[By Pratap Chakrvarty]

[Text] Ayodhya, India, June 6 (AFP)—Fears of possible clashes betwe and a boycott by Hindu priests marred a controversial Indian guru's plans to hold a prayer meeting Sunday [6 June] near the toppled Babri mosque. Residents of this holy pilgrimage town in northern India mostly stayed indoors as carloads of Hindu priests arrived to attend globe-trotting guru Chandraswami's "Som Yagya," or prayer by fire, for world peace.

"Let there peace be on earth," a handful of Hindu priests chanted after the ceremonial fires were lit some three hours before the guru arrived in a convoy of 60 vehicles filled with followers, bodyguards and paramilitary troops.

Jeeps fitted with loudspeakers cruised the town announcing the arrival of the millionaire guru who holds sway over much of the Indian leadership and counts royalty, film stars and captains of industry among his devotees.

"I am here," the bearded and portly Chandraswami announced on arriving at the sparsely attended venue some 900 feet (275 metres) from the ruins of the mosque destroyed by Hindu extremists on December 6. A crowd of about 2,000 people had gathered in the tent built for 25,000 seeking shelter from the 45 degree Celsius (113 degree Fahrenheit) heat.

Some 500 men armed with sticks and concealed firearms guarded the venue as a precaution against a possible attack by the outlawed Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP, World Hindu Forum) or other militant groups opposed to the prayer meet.

Brandishing a stick, Rameshwar Thakur, chief of the 44-year-old guru's stormtroopers, who police say have long criminal records, said: "We will first persuade them with love, or otherwise we will use these."

Before Chandraswami's arrival a group of saffron-robed holy men walked out on the prayers calling them a "deadly farce."

The guru sponsored the prayers to "exorcise" India of the violence unleashed by the destruction of the 16th century Babri mosque.

Some 2,000 people have died since December 6 in Hindu-Muslim clashes which erupted first in Ayodhya, then spread across the country before spilling over into Pakistan and Bangladesh. Other holy men also threatened to join the boycott.

"We will not tolerate black magic," said Ashok Dibiwedi, head of a 50-member delegation of priests from the holy Hindu city of Varanasi. "If Chandraswami's men insist on animal sacrifices or spilling of blood we too will walk out."

Hundreds of Muslim residents of Ayodhya fled ahead of the meeting, fearful of renewed violence, and few residents turned out Sunday.

"They are scared. They fear the prayers will push their town into turmoil once again," said Dweenanath Pandit, a priest.

Some 5,000 policemen and federal troops guarded the prayer site amid fears that the VHP would mobilise its followers to storm the venue.

"We are taking no chances," said Ayodhya police chief Harbachan Singh.

The VHP, which was at the forefront of the drive to replace the Babri mosque with a Hindu temple, has condemned the meeting as a government plot to divide India's Hindu clergy.

Rapid Action Force commandos guarded a makeshift Hindu temple to Lord Rama built atop the ruins of the Babri mosque as snipers kept watch on the trickle of pilgrims roaming Ayodhya.

Six layers of steel barricades fenced off the makeshift Rama temple. Many Hindus believe that a temple to the Hindu god was destroyed by Muslim invaders in 1528 to build the Babri mosque.

Premier P.V. Narasimha Rao vowed after the mosque sacrilege to rebuild the mosque and a Hindu temple but the project has never taken off in the face of opposition from Hindu groups and Muslims, India's largest religious minority.

But D.N. Upadhaya, one of Chandraswami's organisers, said: "We have not come here to build temples or mosques. We have come here to pray for peace."

He blamed the low attendance on a VHP plot to sabotage the exercise.

"It is a sin that will take the VHP to hell," he said. "The saints are all here but they are not attending the prayers."

Police Arrest Hindu Militants

BK0706054693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0533 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Ayodhya, India, June 7 (AFP)—Police arrested several Hindu militants here overnight who were protesting against a prayer meeting for world peace called by a controversial Indian guru, officials said Monday [7 June].

They said an unspecified number of activists of the Shiv Sena (Shiva's Army) were arrested when they tried to burn an effigy of Hindu guru Chandraswami to denounce his prayer meeting.

The portly, jet-setting guru kicked off the two-day meeting Sunday to "purge" this northern Indian town of the violence unleashed by the destruction of the Babri mosque here on December 6 by Hindu zealots.

The razing of the 16th century mosque, built by Moghul invaders, sparked off Hindu-Muslim clashes across the country which left some 2,000 people dead.

Chandraswami's plan for a mass meeting went awry as only some 2,500 devotees trickled into the tent erected for the event near the rubble of the mosque.

The sprawling tent, designed to seat 25,000, looked empty as Hindu priests lit sacrificial fires and chanted, "Let there be peace on Earth."

Hundreds of Hindu priests boycotted the meeting saying it smacked of black magic and was a ploy to divide their ranks.

"The prayer meeting is a total flop. This man should leave Ayodhya," said Swami Ramchandra Paramhansa, a priest close to the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), an outlawed militant Hindu group opposed to Chandraswami and the government.

The VHP, or World Hindu Forum, charged that the meeting was sponsored by the government to sabotage the right-wing party's plan for a permanent Hindu temple on ruins of the Babri Mosque.

A makeshift temple was erected at the site by Hindu extremists on December 6.

"Chandraswami is a charlatan. He should pack his bottles of scotch whisky, perfume and designer-wear robes and clear out," said another priest, who engineered the boycott Sunday of the millionaire guru's prayer meeting.

A subdued Chandraswami was huddled with holy men and followers Monday discussing the debacle and a strategy to save face.

AFP: 13 Killed in Kashmir; Alert on Border

BK0606160693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1208 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Srinagar, India, June 6 (AFP)—Two Indian soldiers were among 13 people killed overnight in the strife-torn Indian state of Kashmir as an alert was sounded along India's border with Pakistan, officials said Sunday [6 June].

A Kashmir government spokesman said a senior army officer was seriously injured and two soldiers died when a convoy of army troops was fired on by Kashmiri Muslim separatists in a village in north Kashmir late Saturday.

The soldiers later set fire to the militants' hideout in Baramulla district killing at least six separatists, he said, adding that others may have been trapped beneath the smouldering debris of the house.

Another government official told reporters in the state winter capital Jammu that five people including three suspected rebels died on Saturday when a large group tried to cross over to India from Pakistan.

He said the three infiltrators from Pakistan-held Kashmir died when security forces shot them in Poonch district during a fierce gunbattle. The official charged they were members of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

He said an alert had been sounded along the border and security had been stepped up following the incident.

Kashmir Muslim rebels had also shot dead two civilians in the town of Bhaderwah, the official said. Muslim guerrillas are waging a secessionist campaign in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

India charges Pakistan with training and arming the rebels but Islamabad denies the allegation. Pakistan holds the northern third of the disputed territory.

Minister: Government Not Handing Kashmir to Army

BK0406163293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, has said that the coordinated efforts between paramilitary forces and the Army in combating militancy in Jammu and Kashmir have yielded good results. Talking to newsmen at Raj Bhavan [Governor's House] in Srinagar today, Mr. Pilot denied reports that the state had been handed over to the Army and said that there is no such move. He said that the people are fed up with militancy and they want peace and stability in the state.

Addressing the state officers at Badgam, Mr. Pilot urged them to make the administration more responsive by solving the problems of the people. He also appealed to the people to extend full cooperation to the administration in restoring normalcy in the state.

Mr. Pilot also addressed BSF [Border Security Force] jawans [soldiers]. He urged them to ensure that the common people do not get harassed during search and combing operations.

Central Police Force Companies Sent to Bombay

BK0406145293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] The center has airdashed six companies of the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] to Bombay in view of the present law and order situation there. An official spokesman disclosed this in New Delhi today.

Army Withdrawn

BK0606033093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Additional paramilitary forces have been sent to Bombay to prevent any further attempts by antisocial elements to create law and order problem. Four companies each of the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] and the BSF [Border Security Force] have arrived in the city. Earlier, 12 companies of the CRPF and the BSF were deployed in the city with 10 columns of the Army and 16 companies of the State Reserve Police. The Army has now been withdrawn. According to the police sources, several persons have been picked up in connection with the murder of the Shiv Sena MLC [member of Legislative Council], Mr. Ramesh More, last week.

Parties React to Tribunal Verdict on Ban

BK0406145093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has welcomed the Bahri tribunal judgment, striking down the orders banning the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh] and the Bajrang Dal. In a statement in New Delhi today, the party president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, demanded the reinstatement of the four dismissed governments of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Rajasthan. The leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, Mr. L.K. Advani, has described the pronouncement as a landmark in Indian judicial history.

The Congress-I says it is still studying the judgment. Reacting to the judgment, the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] General Secretary, Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet, alleged that the government has not prepared the proper case. He also alleged that the ban was not effective and there was no check on the activities of the banned organizations. The Janata Dal Secretary General, Mr. Sharad Yadav, in his statement, said lifting of the ban on the RSS and the Bajrang Dal has no meaning as it was not implemented effectively.

Ban on Islamic Sevak Sangh Upheld

BK0506165193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] The one-man tribunal of Mr. Justice P.N. Nag has upheld the ban on the Islamic Sevak Sangh, ISS, under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act. The tribunal, however, did not give its verdict on the ban on Jamaat-i-Islami in view of the stay granted by the Supreme Court. The apex court had also extended the six-month period prescribed for the tribunal's decision in case of the Jamaat- i-Islami. The government on 10 December banned five organizations—the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh], the VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad], the Bajrang Dal, the ISS, and the Jamaat-i-Islami. Another tribunal headed by Mr. Justice P.K. Bahri, yesterday struck down the ban on the RSS and the Bajrang Dal while confirming it on the Vishwa Hindu Parishad.

The CPI [Communist Party of India] general secretary, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, says the Bahri tribunal has made a hair-splitting distinction between the partners of the Sangh Parivar [RSS and associated organizations] by invalidating the ban on the RSS and the Bajrang Dal. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, he said the VHP and the Bajrang Dal are front organizations of the RSS and all of them were collectively responsible for creating the situation leading to the Ayodhya incident.

Advani Reelected BJP President

BK0506075893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Mr. Lal Krishna Advani has been declared elected the president of the Bharatiya Janata Party. He was the sole candidate for the post. This was formally announced by the party in New Delhi today. Mr. Advani is taking over as the party president for the third time.

Rao Postpones Visit to Bhutan After Viral Fever

BK0506161893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] The prime minister's visit to Bhutan next week has been postponed. Fresh dates are to be fixed in due course. The official spokesman said in New Delhi that the decision was taken on doctor's advice. Mr. Narasimha Rao is convalescing after a bout of viral fever. In a letter to the king of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuk, the prime minister said he was looking forward to his visit to Bhutan, but has been advised by doctors to avoid any precipitate change in altitude and temperature. Mr. Rao said the postponement has caused disappointment to him and regretted the inconvenience to his royal host. The prime minister requested the Bhutanese king to determine a later date for his visit. He asked the Indian ambassador to Bhutan to be in touch with the Bhutanese government in this regard. Mr. Rao said he looks forward to meeting the Bhutan king to renew the traditional ties that bind the two countries. The prime minister also spoke to the king on telephone. The official spokesman said that the prime minister's letter was delivered to the Bhutanese ambassador who called on Mr. Rao today.

Second Indigineously Built Warship Launched

BK0406163093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] The country's indigenously built second warship INS [Indian Naval Ship] Mysore was launched into the Arabian Sea at Bombay today. The destroyer class warship is capable of carrying surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles, antisubmarine weaponry, and early warning systems.

Speaking on the occasion, the Maharashtra chief minister stressed the need for providing the Navy with adequate resources in view of the presence of extra-regional powers in the Indian Ocean. The chief of the naval staff, Admiral Ramdas, spoke about the need for constant upgradation of technology. The first warship, INS Delhi, was launched in February 1991.

West's Unease Over Nuclear Research Viewed

BK0606134193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1010 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Naresh Chandra Jain commentary]

[Text] India has been under constant pressure from the United States and other Western powers to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the NPT. For India, the question of nonproliferation is linked with the political and economic freedom of the developing countries. The possible danger posed by our immediate neighbors, both China and Pakistan, is no more a secret. It is a known fact that both these countries have developed their nuclear programs, which is a great concern for India. Even researchers are talking with a great degree of confidence of Pakistan having even a nuclear bomb.

With this backdrop, India just cannot afford to jeopardise her independence and sovereignty by signing the NPT in the present form. India is continuing its nuclear program for peaceful purposes. Though at present India does not have any plan to manufacture a nuclear aggressive device, it has kept its options open in case of any eventuality.

Indian atomic reactors have been inspected by international inspection agencies several times and they have been fully satisfied with the Indian nuclear program for peaceful purposes. These agencies have accepted in no uncertain terms that India does not have an atom bomb, but that it has the capacity to do so cannot be denied.

The Western powers, U.S.A., Canada, and France, are not happy with the situation and Indian achievements in the field of nuclear research. They, therefore, are trying to stop the supply of enriched uranium to India so that

Tarapur atomic power station may close down. However, there is no danger of its being closed down as Tarapur atomic power station could be run with home made fuel. The advanced fuel fabrication facility located at Tarapur itself has produced uranium oxide under containment condition. Plutonium has been introduced in a part of the plant prior to the bulk introduction in the facility. The production of mixed oxide or MOX fuel is no more an enigma. This indigenously produced fuel will be good enough to run the Tarapur atomic power station for several years to come.

Once the agreement is over, India is free to reprocess the spent fuel of Tarapur. The department of atomic energy is capable of producing its own enriched uranium. In fact, the indigenously developed technology for fuel reprocessing has been in use in India for the past three decades.

Based on the operating experience with plants at Trombay and Tarapur, another plant is being set up at Kalpakkam which is in an advanced stage of completion. Commenced in 1969, the Tarapur atomic power station, the first nuclear power plant in India consisting of two boiling water reactors with the present capacity of 2X-160 [as heard]— that is, 320 megawatts electric, logged about 46 reactor years as of December 1992. The cumulative generation of electricity from the stations since the commencement of commercial operation till the end of December 1992 was 42,398 million units. The station generated 1,745 million units during the calender year 1992. However, at present eight nuclear power reactors at four places are in operation with a total installed capacity of 1,500 megawatts electric, Tarapur's share being slightly over 20 percent. Unlike Tarapur atomic power station, interestingly, all the remaining six units located at three places are using pressurized heavy water reactors. Tarapur has two boiling water reactors.

It goes to the credit and ingenuity of Indian scientists and planners that the nation embarked on the quest to achieve self- sufficiency in nuclear power generation way back in 1951. The three stage development of our nuclear program, namely, the first stage of pressurized heavy water reactors, the second stage of fast breeder reactors for [word indistinct] plutonium, and the third stage of using thorium is firmly on course.

Our vast uranium and thorium reserves can easily support the first stage program of pressurized heavy water reactors of 10,000 megawatts electric. When the three-stage program is fully implemented, the large reserves of thorium will be used. There is no doubt that India has the technical capability, not only to explore, (?mine), and prepare nuclear fuel of high purity, but to produce reactors of various types and sizes. In fact, India probably has one of the most ambitious nuclear power programs as compared to any other developing country. India is confident to handle problems that exist now and the ones that may arise in the future.

Paper Urges Firm Stand Against Malott Proposals

BK0606141093 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 24 May 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Steadfast Foreign Policy"]

[Text] The Indian External Affairs Ministry should be commended for adopting a firm stand on the strange proposals made by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Malott. On the eve of John Malott's visit, some zealous quarters in the country were feeling optimistic as if the United States wanted to create new waves of intimacy in its bilateral relationship based on a common perception. On the Punjab and Kashmir issues, the United States had also given a slight indication that it considered the Indian stand as just. But just three weeks before coming to India, John Malott had said many things to India's disliking at the subcommittee of the U.S. Congress Foreign Relations Committee. But this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the optimistic quarters and John Malott's visit was viewed as if he was coming to appreciate our stand on nuclear nonproliferation and to define a new outlook on South Asia that could create peace for India and problems for Pakistan.

But nothing like this happened and John Malott pleasantly reiterated everything he had said at the subcommittee of the U.S. Congress Foreign Relations Committee. He said that the Indian security forces are violating human rights in Kashmir, that the Kashmiri people's views should also be ascertained while solving the Kashmir issue, and that human rights should not be a bitter issue between the biggest democracies like India and the United States, and so on.

The Indian political parties strongly reacted to John Malott's remarks soon after his departure. The Communist Party of India and the Bharatiya Janata Party clearly told John Malott that the United States should distance itself from the Kashmir issue because it is exclusively an issue between India and Pakistan. It is expected that the External Affairs Ministry will repay John Malott in kind. Perhaps diplomatic compulsions had tied its hands. But the very next day after John Malott's departure, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman set the record straight. He said the Indian Government is not only willing to hold talks with any friendly country on the human rights issue, but it has also imposed no restrictions on visits by members of any human rights organization to any part of the country in their individual capacity. India is not only in the process of setting up a human rights commission, but it is also holding consultations so that the security forces' actions can be brought under the purview of this commission. India's dilemma in Kashmir is that it is fighting a war by proxy there and while this war continues, the human rights situation is bound to be slightly complicated. The United States and John Malott will have definitely come to realize by now that India is a regional superpower and it is not easy to impose unjust things upon it.

Iran

Meshkini Sermon Views Election, Saudi Actions

LD0406161593 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1357 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Friday prayers second sermon by Ayatollah Meshkini from Qom—live]

[Excerpts] I will refer to two advantages obtained from participation in the upcoming presidential elections. The first regards foreign policy. Oh brother and sister, pay attention: The enemies of Islam, the superpowers, are waiting in hiding to slap you in the face in return for when you slapped them. The fact that they are looking for an excuse proves the point. They say human rights are not respected in Iran. You must have heard this a lot. Iran intends to build an atom bomb. Iran intends to build means of mass destruction. Iran has usurped the Islands of Abu-Musa and the Tunbs. Iran is a terrorist and serves terrorism. Now, if after all these designs by the world you go to the ballot box, the world will understand that the president equals all the nation. When everyone votes for one person the world will understand that the president is equal to the strength of the whole nation. They do not want to fight with nations. They either do not want to or they cannot. [passage ommitted]

Now the last point: This year in the secure house of God [Mecca] the Iranian pilgrims were deprived of security. Contrary to the teachings of the Koran and God they were deprived from the divine duty of disavowal of the infidels. In the house where Muslims pledge faith to God, the Saudis broke their pledge. The respectable Iranian pilgrims acted with outmost restraint. They controlled themselves. Indeed, our brother pilgrims acted wisely. What could a small group without weapons or firearms do in a foreign land and against detailed plots of a country? We must respect this spirit of endurance and control.

Thank God, however, that with divine inspiration and support from the coming Messiah and the excellent policy of the managers of the country's affairs, as well as the wise guidance of the leader of the revolution, the Iranian pilgrims managed to carry out the divine chants of Death to America and Death to Israel collectively and magnificently and to catch the elements of apostasy off guard. I think if any Muslim from any country asks, What is this noise, they will say it is the Iranians calling for Disavowal of Infidels.

My last point is on this matter. The Saudi Government broke its pledge in the house of God and prevented the pilgrims of the house of God. Mr. Custodian of the Holy Shrines in a speech for the leaders of the various pilgrims, extensively criticized the Islamists and Hezbollahis. Yes. His leader, Clinton, also attacked in the same way. In agreement they both attacked Islam. Mr. Fahd has said that the invitation to Islam, the propagation of the good, and the Disavowal of Infidels is following the law of the jungle. He has made it clear that there must be a compromise with Israel and that he will do all he can in this regard. Once again, Mr. Fahd has said to the fatwa that opposition to America and Israel is a wrong interpretation of the Koran and should not be made. Someone with the slightest knowledge of the Koran would know how much Mr. Fahd is capable of understanding the Koran and the extent of his education in using the Koran. I will say no more here. [passage omitted]

Pilgrims' Supervisor Protests Saudi Moves, Departs

LD0506103493 Tehran IRNA in English 0944 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Mecca, Saudi Arabia, June 5, IRNA—Head of the Iranian pilgrims in Mecca Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri in protest to "unjustified and police attitude" of the Saudi Government left Mecca for Tehran Saturday [6 May] morning ahead of the plan.

Reyshahri who is the leader's representative in charge of the hajj affairs told IRNA here before departure that he strongly protests the Saudi move of sieging the 'Bethat al-Imam' here and creating hardships for the Iranian pilgrims.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri said "the police attitude of the Saudi Government against the 'Bethat al-Imam' is an unjustified move" negating the hajj pilgrims right to peace and security.

He added that the holy Mecca is a divinely ordained safe place and that the Saudi Government's attitude against the Bethat al-Imam and the Iranian pilgrims, who enter the building in order to ask and solve their religious questions, is a "grave insult to the Islamic sentiments of the hajj pilgrims."

Hojjat ol-Eslam underlined that he left his mission unfinished in Mecca in protest to "illogical and irresponsible" behavior of the Saudi Goverment and that he returns home upon his own decision.

The leader's representative and his accompanied entourage were to go from here to Medina soon.

Saudi security agents besieged the Bethat al-Imam on Thursday preventing pilgrims from going into or out of the Iranian headquarters here.

Khamene'i Receives Pilgrims

LD0706103293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Mohammad Mohammadi- Reyshahri, representative of the vali-ye faqih [supreme leader] and supervisor of Iranian pilgrims, and a number of officials in charge of the eminent

leader's mission were received this morning by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i.

At that meeting, the eminent leader thanked the supervisor of Iranian pilgrims and other staff involved in the affairs of hajj. He then said that the performance of the pilgrimage ceremonies annually was one of the necessities of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system. He emphasized the need to institutionalize the hajj in the form of a continuous, permament institution moving towards expansion and development.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i pointed to the features of Abrahamite hajj and said: A hajj which is empty of the popular dimensions of pilgrimage, of unity among Muslims and of equipping the world of Islam and public opinion in that world vis-a-vis blasphemy, arrogance, and world oppression and enmity, is a defective hajj from which we have suffered over succesive years. To be satisfied with this kind of hajj is neither expedient or permissable. [passage omitted]

His eminence continued: The message of Islam, the Koran, and the revolution should reach the ears of people throughout the world, during the hajj, and the Disavowal of the Infidels ritual is a prominent example of conveying the Koranic message.

In conclusion, he advised the officials in charge of hajj affairs to begin preparing and planning for the staging of next year's hajj, in the best possible manner. [passage omitted]

State Opposes Kuwaiti Oil Quota Increase Demand

NC0706084093 Paris AFP in English 0805 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 7 (AFP)—Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i said Monday [7 June] that Iran would oppose Kuwait's demand for an increase in its oil production quota at an OPEC conference in Geneva.

"In the course of the past months, the oil market has not been strong enough. There is a surplus of crude on the market," Aqazadeh-Kho'i told reporters on the eve of the meeting.

"I personally believe the current time is not a correct one for implementing Kuwait's request" for an increase in its quota from 1.6 million barrels per day (b/d) to two million b/d.

"Demand is not that robust for the third quarter" and a jump in output would weaken prices, Aqazadeh-Kho'i warned.

He said however that Iran, along with Kuwait, would probably demand a quota rise for the fourth quarter and seek cuts by producers which jacked up output during the Gulf crisis, notably the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Saudi Arabia.

Iran, the second-largest OPEC producer after Saudi Arabia, is sticking to its current quota, the minister insisted, and producing between 3.35 million and 3.4 million b/d.

Exports accounted for between 2.55 and 2.6 million b/d, with the rest used for domestic consumption.

The oil minister denied Iran had helped to export Iraqi crude in violation of the UN trade embargo, saying there was no such cooperation between the two neighbouring countries.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i said Iran projected revenue of 18 billion dollars for the current Iranian year, running from March 1993 to the same time next year, based on exports of 2.78 million b/d and a price of 17 dollars per barrel.

Tehran would invest 1.5 billion dollars in the oil sector.

It will also focus on developing gas resources, the minister said, expecting 50 billion cubic metres per year of natural gas available for exports to Europe and elsewhere by 2000.

Oil production capacity is running at 4.3 million b/d, Aqazadeh- Kho'i said, and the target was to boost the level to five million b/d, including 500,000 b/d from its offshore platforms.

He denied Iran's storage capacity was limited, saying Khark Island alone could handle 20 million barrels per day.

Ayatollah Khamene'i Pardons Convicts

LD0606104193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Excerpt] To mark the auspicious occasion of the festivities of Qorban and Qadir, and at the suggestion of the head of the judiciary, the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution has pardoned or reduced the sentences of 2,768 prisoners convicted by the general, military, and Islamic-revolution courts, and waived well as the fines and financial penalties of those convicted by the revolutionary, military, and penal courts through out the country. [passage omitted]

Construction Ministry's 1992 Activities Outlined

LD0606183093 Tehran IRNA in English 1527 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 6, IRNA—The Construction Jihad laid drinking water pipelines to 1,000 villages last calendar year (ended March 20) and provided water transporting facilities to another 1,800 villages and tribal areas, Deputy Minister of Construction Jihad Karim Karimi said here today.

Speaking at a press conference, Karimi said his ministry in the said period built 2,300 kms of roads, provided electricity to 900 villages and carried out 98 development plans in rural areas.

He said at least 375,000 families in rural areas benefited from the Jihad activities last year.

In its 14-year history, he said, Construction Jihad has built 28,400 kms of roads. Repaired and asphalted 10,000 kms of rural roads, supplied drinking water to 16,000 villages, delivered electricity to 12,400 villages, and implemented 667 development plans, of which 450 were carried out in 225 villages.

According to the official the ministry has concluded 8,315 agreements in principle with the private sector for setting up small scale industrial units and 115 cooperatives for weaving carpets in rural areas.

Reportage on Presidential Campaign, Speeches

Economic Performance Criticized

NC0606120493 Paris AFP in English 1118 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 6 (AFP)—A presidential candidate on Sunday [6 June] attacked the incumbent 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his economic performance, warning it jeopardized Iran's independence.

Ahmad Tavakkoli, running against Rafsanjani and two other candidates in Friday's poll, said the government had imported 14 billion dollars worth of industrial equipment over the past four years but used only 20 percent of the amount.

Iran has lost money on the "80 percent that was not used and this practice jeopardizes our political independence," he told a press conference. Seven billion dollars of the purchases had been on credit.

Tavakkoli called for stricter control of foreign business dealings and said the government had failed to secure a wider role for the private sector in the economy.

The former labour minister ruled out trade with the United States, Iran's arch-enemy, and said Tehran could "use alternative sources, even if we have to pay more money."

Taheri Campaign Speech

LD0606201993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1015 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Speech by presidential candidate Rajabali Taheri; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

As the plan is that I should deal chiefly with my programs, I end my biography. It should be clear now that I have had a background as a struggler for 27 years in the pre-revolution period—and I hope it will be accepted by God—and for 15 years after the victory of the revolution.

The important issue is the motive for my registration as a presidential candidate and for taking this responsibility. To be honest, the more I worked for the correction of the economic situation, particularly inflation and harnessing of inflation [pauses].... For the reform, I propose a 14-point declaration. If the Iranian nation—with God's strength—votes for me, I will put an end to inflation—with God's strength—and we will witness a fall in prices. As I pointed out—it is with God's strength, the blessings of the Messiah, and the guidance of the esteemed leader, His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i.

As for the main points of the program, which will, of course, have to be implemented simultaneously:

1. The reform of the monetary law and credit and the freeing of Iranian money with the support of the oil;

2. The reform of the banking laws and the revival of interest- free loans;

3. The sale and transfer of all the surplus and non-strategic properties, wealth, and factories to the people, with the strong supervision of the government. In other words, the government must not rule trade.

4. The reform of the labor and insurance laws and provision of social security on the basis of Article 29 of the Constitution.

5. The reform of the tax law, municipality taxes, and subsidies, as well as the removal of unrealistic prices and the establishment of a true single price for foreign exchange.

6. The reform of the budget law and the budget organization toward the adjustment and reduction of prices and self-sufficiency of agriculture. I think the main economic axis of the country, which is set by the plan organization, should be agriculture. We have to make agriculture—as soon as possible—export wheat, God willing. The industry has slow results. The four to five year projects last 10-15 years without any result. They continue to receive foreign exchange and are inflationary for us.

7. The merger of the four Ministries of Trade, Heavy and Light Industries, Mines and Metals, into a single ministry named the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

8. The merging of the Ministry of Housing and City Planning into the Ministry of Interior.

9. The merger of the Aid Committee of Imam Khomeyni—sanctified be his soul—and the welfare organization, as well as all other aid and similar economic organizations, into a single organization.

10. Transformation of the Ministry of Construction Jihad to what it was at the beginning of the revolution through using the military conscripts for one year.

I have to explain the situation. At the beginning of the revolution, I was involved in the formation of the Ministry of Construction Jihad. It started with the martyr Ayatollah Rabbani in Shiraz and Fars. I started the development projects by using surplus forces available in government offices and the public. Sometimes the government would contribute a small budget, such as one day's income from oil or confiscated monies, to help with the construction.

Many programs started this way. People too—enthusiastic and freely available—as well as the surplus forces from government departments, who had nothing to do, would gather and work. Unfortunately, we witnessed that this construction Jihad, which was a popular organization, gradually changed into a bureaucratic institute.

God willing, I intend to change the construction Jihad into its original form. Government ministries would carry out their own responsibilities. Work concerning the Ministries of Agriculture and Energy would be returned to them. Construction Jihad would be available as a support force for development plans across the country. And it will use one year—out of the available two years—of military conscription. One year is to be in the service of the Army for training and military matters. For their second year, they would work in the construction Jihad for development plans.

11. The revival and strengthening of the one-year Kad scheme [training program for young adults] with coordination among the Ministries of Education, Labor, and Higher Education, in such a way that all work and labor will be deemed valuable, and the manpower resources of the students will be utilized for their own good and in the interest of the country. The students should receive an apprenticeship and skill certificate. [passage omitted]

The aim of the Kad scheme is that school pupils and university students, right from the beginning and as they engage in their studies, should become familiarized with work and labor, thus inducing an interest in both work and study. In this way millions of people will be engaged in work during the summer—a great asset being used in the service of the country, as well as benefiting the students themselves.

12. This point concerns eliminating ceremonial aspects and luxuries from the government and state institutions, and also preventing any kind of waste. Of course by selling state factories to the people, the volume of government's work will automatically be reduced. In any case, this should always be regarded as a principle for the functioning of governmental organizations and institutions, as well as revolutionary institutions and foundations. That is to say, everyone should know that these are public assets, and everyone should strive to safeguard them so that there is no waste. Even having too many receptions for guests should be stopped; of course receptions are good, but not all of them. When we are facing a budget deficit, then we must be economical about everything.

13. The reform of customs regulations and import-export provisions. The issue of customs and import-export control is an important one and should be followed seriously. Only the surplus of commodities which we have in abundance should be exported. For instance, we see that watermelon prices suddenly go up in the summer. Then we realize that export arrangements have been made and even the domestic supply has been exported. We should only export the surplus. The country's needs are more important. This has to be dealt with in a fully coordinated way. Of course when the government reduces its organizations, pulls out of trade, and limits itself to supervision and policy management, this will be done easily. Since, however, many government institutions and their affiliated organizations have the right to trade and since they are not limited in trading—under the guise of working on behalf of the public purse—they do not refrain from creating monopolies. These decisions are for the center, for the government to make. But now each part of the government is making a different decision. The Foundation for the Deprived takes one decision, the municipality another. For instance, the petrochemical factory in Shiraz produces sufficient ammonia nitride for domestic consumption and some for export, but then the Ministry of Trade imports the same amount. As a result we face a crisis. There have been many examples of such disharmony. It is all the result of government becoming too extensive and inflated. The principle that the government should rule, not trade, must be followed seriously and the affairs must be transferred to the people. The imam said this many times. Of course the government and Mr. Hashemi have taken steps in this regard, but the matter has to be followed more seriously, God willing.

14. To change the Ministry of Intelligence to an intelligence organization and to place it in its correct position under the control of the chief of staff. Of course this is mainly the concern of the esteemed leader. My point of view and proposal are, however, that it would be advantageous for it to be under the chief of staff. From an economic point of view, also, it would save much expenditure. This therefore is among my proposals.

With regard to issues of internal politics my view is that the cultural onslaught and other social issues have to be fundamentally dealt with. [Koranic verse omitted] If there is a bad and inflationary economy in a society unemployment will gradually increase and will bring corruption and will make people accept any culture. Today we have problems with some laws. For instance recently with the insurance law, the share of a worker has increased from 2,000 to 3,000 tomans. A small workshop of a craftsman— a tailor or a carpenter who has one worker and wants to train him as a master of trade, a craftsman, a technician, an ironmonger, or a carpenter, there are many of them, all workers, they have to let

these workers go. God willing, with the reform of the law there will be an end to this and we shall not be witnessing unemployment. [passage omitted] If there is a poor economy, general poverty, and unemployment in a society then the cultural onslaught will be successful.

We must, therefore, reduce our vulnerability to the cultural onslaught of the East and the West. This is done by improving the health of our economy. The policy pursued by the Central Bank to offer high interest rates for the people's deposits is aimed at keeping down the price of hard currency. But there are better ways. One way is to make oil the backing for our currency; and in order to reduce cash in circulation, we should open the state stores to sell the items which are ageing in these stores.

On foreign policy and the attraction of foreign investment, we must observe a principle mentioned by the imam. That is, we reject any investment which might exploit us. In the year 1343 [ending 20 March 1965, when the law of capitulation was endorsed, a condition was attached to lending Iran $200 million. In return they [not further specified] wanted $300 million. That is, they expected a return of $100 million as interest. Well, they were exploiting our nation. Islam does not accept such investments. When we are owed some money, however, or we want to regain our rights from foreigners, then we must employ every means to regain our rights. The United States owes us a great deal. One way of recovering our right is a primary tool. That is, when someone owes us some money, first we go and ask for the return of our asset. This we do in a civilized manner. That is, the first step is face-to-face talks. We might send a person the first time to hold talks, but the other side might turn him down. We repeat the process once or twice and eventually we go ourselves to see what the problem is. In my opinion, we failed to reach any conclusion through indirect talks to recover what America owes us; and some matters even deteriorated. Through direct talks, the issues will be clear and the nation will be put in the picture. We can regain our right better in this way. [passage omitted]

When the time comes, God willing, with the Almighty's help, by preserving all the values of our revolution—the most important one of which is Islamic honor—through the rule of God and rejection of all satans and global arrogance and through particular assistance of the lord of the age [the hidden imam] and through guidance of the esteemed leader [Khamene'i], we must recover our right from America. The issue is of a nature which should definitely be pursued by the leader's instruction and consent and through his eminence's consultations. As with any act of jihad, however, when it might be necessary to make sacrifices to achieve results, one must face danger. I have therefore repeatedly said that I do not rule out any solution to the problem.

In issues concerning investment with other state, the Islamic principle, Islamic honor, and Islamic culture must be considered. That is, our culture is the principal thing for us. If an investment results in some kind of dishonor or somehow retards the export of our revolution, or, on the other hand, results in their cultural onslaught, then naturally it must be stopped.

Links with today's world are necessary—it was the same in the past also. We see that the prophet, peace be upon him, for the purpose of strengthening the Muslims, sent individuals on mission to Iran at that time—because Arabia was backward from the technology point of view, was a cipher—from every point of view—his holiness would send emissaries to Iran in order to secure arms and learn sword-making and other techniques of that time, and in order also to obtain armaments and bring them back for the world of Islam and the defence of Islam. In all those relations and negotiations, however, Islamic principles were observed.

That is what is important for us, that we should recognize our own principles and observe them in all the economic relations or or technological ties that may emerge—it makes no difference. In all those Islamic relations, Islamic principles, Islamic values should be safeguarded totally. Even our attitude also must comply with Islam. Our slogan—its framework—also must be totally Islamic. Even slogans and swear words that can give the enemy any pretext and result in loss must not be uttered. The Iranians who come from abroad, from America, repeatedly say that the Americans, world arrogance, make use of the slogan Death to America that we chant as propaganda, stating that the Iranians say Death to America and this means death to all the American nation. Our intention is death to the American Administration, death to the arrogant American Administration, this is obvious. But put into words it becomes Death to America. [passage omitted]

Such issues have a great deal of effect in the culture of a community; we must not use words that the enemy can exploit. We must use such words, and the slogan must be such that they do not give the enemy any pretext. The enemy must be disarmed from every aspect. Therefore, wherever there has been a debate, I have suggested that instead of saying Death to America we should say Death to the arrogant American Administration. [passage omitted]

God willing, our main duty is to continue the revolution and safeguard Imam Khomeyni's movement, so that, God willing, it ends in the appearance of his holiness the mahdi. Is is then that, with the help of Muslims, justice will be established all over the world. We pray for the appearance of his holiness the imam of the age. [passage omitted]

President, Croatian Envoy Discuss Balkan Issues

LD0606110093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Mr. Osman Muftic, the first ambassador of Croatia in Iran, met President Rafsanjani this morning

in order to present his credentials. In that meeting, the president wished the ambassador success in our country and said he considered the continuation of Serbian crimes in the Balkan region as a bitter and sad affair. He said: The Iranian nation feels sympathetic toward the people of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina who are subjected to oppression and aggression by the Serbs.

The Iranian nation is also deeply concerned about the surfacing of disputes between Croats and Muslims. He added: We expect that the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Croats, who are both victims of aggression, join hands and stand firm against the Serbs, while not allowing internal differences—which are induced by ill- wishers and enemies—to weaken their common stance vis-a-vis the aggressors.

The president stressed that the past history of nations has proved that the existence of a nation with a population of several million can be disregarded by resorting to violence and aggression. He said: Eventually the righteousness of the oppressed people of the Balkan peninsula and the guilt of the Serbs will be proved to the world.

The president welcomed the expansion of cooperation between Iran and Croatia and expressed the hope that, with the creation of harmony and unity, the two nations of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia will be able to act in complete solidarity, in the face of their common enemy.

The ambassador of Croatia, in turn, thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its humanitarian intentions and expressed pleasure about being appointed the first Croatian ambassador in Iran. He denied the existence of any dispute between the Muslims and the Croats and considered the claims about their conflicts as a misunderstanding that was caused originally by the Vance-Owen plan.

He presented a report about the situation in the Balkan region and about the emigration of many Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina to Croatia due to Serbian crimes. He said: Croatia has two armies, the Bosnian Army and the Croatian Defense Council. Muslim forces are serving in both, particularly in Bosnia. Therefore, the claim that Muslim and Croats are in opposition to one another is very difficult.

He added: I am a Croat Muslim myself, and I will do my utmost to resolve misunderstandings between Muslims and Christians.

President Receives Departing Ambassadors

LD0606122593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] At the end of their mission to Tehran the ambassadors of Sudan and Greece were received by the president for discussions.

In the meeting with Sudanese Ambassador 'Abd-al-Rahman Sa'id, the president expressed the hope that the government and the people of Sudan will be able to solve their problems in the path of development of their country.

The Sudanese ambassador also expressed satisfaction over cooperation between Iran and Sudan, particularly during his years of mission to Iran.

Greek Ambassador Biduris, also in a meeting with our country's president, expressed his condolences over the fourth anniversary of the demise of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran and said his experiences during his years of mission were very important and added: In the present situation in the world, Iran could play an important role in strengthening the stability in the region.

Pointing to the good relations between Iran and Greece, he said the two countries share many things, and we hope to have greater ties with you.

In response, the president referred to Greece as a friendly country in Europe and said: The potential for expansion of cooperation between the two countries is great, and we welcome the deepening of relations in all fields of interest.

Tajik Minister Pays Tribute to Khomeyni

LD0606204793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Mr. Bobokhon Makhmadov, Tajikistan's minister of press and information, who has come to Tehran to attend the ceremonies marking the fourth anniversary of the demise of Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be sanctified—held a news conference in Tehran's Esteqlal Hotel today. He said: Iran occupies an important place in our foreign relations, and if the programs currently being implemented between us and Iran reach fruition within the next three to four years, they would bring highly desirable results for both countries.

Regarding Imam Khomeyni's personality and his eminence's influence on the world of Islam, he said: The imam's profile was recognized in Tajikistan 30 years ago as a philosopher, poet, and scholar; and now our nation views him as a great leader.

Attacks on Iraqi Kurdistan 3-4 Jun Reported

NC0706061193 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] The clerical regime's antipopular forces continue to shell border areas in Iraqi Kurdistan using canons and mortars. According to a report, the criminal forces carried out two intense artillery attacks on Qandil Heights and the Nawdasht area in Iraqi Kurdistan. The first attack was launched 0100-0300 on 4 June [2030 GMT to 2230 on 3 June] and the second was carried out

1130-1400 on the same day. There are no definite reports on the number of defenseless people killed in the mercenaries' operation.

Another report says that the regime's forces carried out three artillery attacks 0100-0700 on 4 June on Dobeh village and its adjacent areas in the Sumeh region. On the same day, the regime's mercenary forces for several hours intensely attacked the areas around Galvaraz and Suaseh villages in the (Sumeh) region using artillery.

Defense Minister Questioned on Arms Purchases

NC0606085693 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Station commentary: "A Question for the Defense Minister"]

[Text] Dear listeners. On 25 March this year, Iranian Defense Minister Akbar Torkan commented on the situation in Iran and the Armed Forces' arms program. He professed that with the mitigation of international tension, ordnance sales have slumped in many parts of the world and in such circumstances, the European and U.S. ordnance complexes were resorting to various ploys to solicit arms buyers. In line with this policy, the Americans and Europeans were utilizing the news and mass media to instill chimerical fear and intimidation among the Persian Gulf countries, and thus, to spur rivalry for arms purchases. Torkan added that Iran was not falling into this trap and was going to concentrate on the economic reconstruction of the country.

What motivated Torkan's claims and who was he addressing? More important, did he himself believe what he said? If any other official said such things the truth of their allegations would be in doubt. But such statements from the one holding the Defense Ministry portfolio and the person supervising ordnance purchases for the regime conflicts with every kind of logic.

If Torkan believes that by making such allegations he can portray the clerical regime as a government that favors peace and tranquillity in the world, one should point out that he is laboring under a serious delusion. The people of Iran, who are suffering the consequences of 14 years of bitter and unpleasant warmongering and tension-generating policies of this regime, are too well aware of the true nature of the clerics to be deceived by such remarks.

On the international level, Iran's nature has gradually been exposed before international circles and the people of the world have realized that regarding terrorist actions, unwarranted interference in the affairs of other countries, and inciting agitation, the Iranian regime is far ahead of all other antihuman governments.

A cursory glance at Iran's transactions in the arms and ammunitions market proves to what extent Torkan's claims are removed from reality. This is because the economic condition of the popular masses is deteriorating daily due to the erroneous economic policies of the government and the prices of essential goods are spiraling sky high. The regime's officials are spending billions on ordnance purchases which should actually be spent on food, health, and treatment for the people.

The regime is the most important buyer of arms and equipment from eastern countries. As the regime has admitted itself, Iran has recently bought some submarines from Russia and a vast arsenal of long-range missiles from the DPRK, which has generated much apprehension among the Persian Gulf countries.

One may ask the defense minister, if the United States and Europe wish to boost their arms sales by means of propaganda and to initiate an arms race among the Persian Gulf littoral states, who is responsible for assisting them in doing so, in practice? The Islamic Republic's officials, headed by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, are seeking to project that in order to ensure peace and tranquillity and to affirm goodwill toward the neighboring countries, Iran's defense budget has been considerably reduced. The impression that the newspapers and magazines convey, however, is that Iran's defense expenditures far exceed the figures specified by regime officials.

During the process of implementing a single-parity rate for foreign exchange, the mullahs' Majles approved the bill on the condition that a sum of $5 billion would be allocated for the purchase of military equipment for the regime's Armed Forces. This sum, which is 15.5 percent of the total budget of the country, is in addition to the sum envisaged in the 1372 [year beginning 21 March 1993] budget for equipping the regime's Armed Forces. This budget, according to Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks at a news conference on 31 January 1993, amounts to $850 million.

In view of all this, it would be appropriate to ask Torkan if we should believe his remarks or the above propositions. As is commonly said, should we believe the evidence before us or the allegations being made?

MKO Official on Regime 'Terrorism'

NC0606054893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sanabarq Zahedi, secretary of the National Iranian Resistance Council and head of the Arab Department of the Mojahedin-e Khalq, MKO, in Paris, by Shadiyah Riyad, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue of the Week" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Riyad] Dr. Sanabarq Zahedi, certain foreign forces are trying to shake the stability and security of the region, supporting terrorism in Egypt and supplying extremists with money and weapons. In your opinion, what are the motives and ambitions of these foreign forces?

[Zahedi] First of all, I would like to greet our brothers in Egypt before discussing the roots of this serious phenomenon which originates from Iran, specifically from the ruling mullahs in Tehran. The mullahs can neither solve the problems of Iranian society nor confront the mammoth popular resistance inside the country. They have failed to quell the protest movements and the demonstrations organized by Mojahedin-e Khalq over the past few months throughout the country. They have also failed to solve the economic problems of Iran. Therefore, they find no way out of this crisis other than exporting what they call the revolution; that is, exporting terrorism and religious extremism to the entire world, particularly to the countries of the region, and more specifically to Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Jordan, and other Arab countries, neighbors and nonneighbors.

If we examine this phenomenon thoroughly, we find that the mullahs ruling Iran and the Khomeyni regime are facing resistance from the Iranian people in addition to the organized armed resistance by Mojahedin-e Khalq and the Iranian National Liberation Army. Because the clerical regime has failed to solve the political, economic, social, and cultural problems of Iranian society as well as failing to confront the resistance, it found that the only way out is to export these crises and problems abroad. The mullahs first try to suppress the protests inside Iran. You have heard that international organizations and institutions have condemned the clerical regime dozens of times over its practices inside Iran, such as the executions and the torture of political prisoners. With the recent world changes, the mullahs are now facing major internal and international crises. They cannot adapt to the international climate and to the genuine requirements of the Iranian people in the last decade of the 20th century. What, then, should they do? Since Khomeyni came to power, exporting crises abroad and oppressing the Iranian people at home have been their only policies. [passage omitted]

[Riyad] Dr. Zahedi, not only do Iran's rulers resort to terrorism and exporting violence, they also covet the region, acquire the territory of others by force, and have an armament policy that perhaps far exceeds their defense needs. Do you think that Iran may repeat Saddam Husayn's experience? And does this mean it has not yet learned the lesson of the Gulf war?

[Zahedi] I personally believe that the clerical regime's attempts to obtain and stockpile all kinds of weapons, including nuclear weapons—we disclosed these plans to the world—proceed not from a position of strength, but from a position of weakness. It only means that the regime, which is facing popular resistance, is trying to intimidate others so that it can export crises abroad and divert the Iranian people's attention from what is happening inside Iran. You know that over the past years, the mullahs' regime has spent billions of dollars of the Iranian people's money to buy and stockpile all kinds of weapons to frighten others. However, there is yet a greater fact: By concentrating these arms, the regime wants to confront the Iranian people. Recently, for example, the regime brought several Army and Revolutionary Guard divisions from the border and deployed them in Iranian cities, which are raging with protests organized by Mojahedin-e Khalq.

The regime cannot go back on this plan because this would mean its total and final collapse. The regime is facing determined opposition and an Iranian National Liberation Army ready to carry out the final operation to topple it in Tehran. Stockpiling weapons, therefore, is first aimed at confronting the Iranian people and the resistance, and then at distracting attention by creating foreign crises. We do not, therefore, rule out the possibility of this regime creating a major crisis, whether in the Gulf or in other regions. If the regime were to learn a lesson, it should have learned from the eight-year war, which ended with the regime failing to realize its ambitions. But the regime cannot stop pursuing its policies and plans.

Nepal

Prime Minister Koirala Cancels Visit to France

BK0506002893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1749 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] Kathmandu, June 4 (AFP)—Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala Friday [4 June] cancelled a planned visit to France, for "technical reasons" citing a double-booking for foreign travel in mid-June.

Koirala, who was due to meet French President Francois Mitterrand mid-month, told a crowded press conference at his residence, that he would visit Vienna to attend the international conference there instead and pay an official visit to Israel on his way back home.

Koirala recalled that his late brother, former prime minister Bisweshwore Prasad Koirala, was one of the first government heads to recognize the Israeli Government in the late 1950s.

He said he was therefore keen to visit Israel and observe agricultural and rural development projects there.

He said Nepal would not raise the issue of Bhutanese refugees in Nepal at the Vienna Human Rights Conference, preferring to solve the problem bilaterally.

Over 100,000 Bhutanese refugees of Nepalese descent are sheltering in camps far eastern Nepal run by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other non-governmental organizations.

Koirala said Nepal's reputation abroad was rising gradually as the government bolstered law and order and improved the economy through bilateral trade and industrial policies.

Five Parties To Boycott Assembly Elections

BK0606163893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1622 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Kathmandu, June 6 (AFP)—Five political opposition parties will boycott elections for five National Assembly seats on June 22 on the grounds that the poll is unconstitutional, a Nepal Election Commission source said Sunday [6 June].

While five candidates of the ruling Nepali Congress (NC) filed their nominations, five opposition parties including the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) (NCP-UML), the United Peoples Front, the Nepal Peasants and Workers Party and the Nepal Communist Party (United) refused to contest the seats, a source from one of the opposition parties said.

The opposition parties argue that the election is against the spirit of the 1990 constitution.

Two upper house members of the (NCP-UML) Astha Laxmi Shakya and Satya Narayan Mandal jointly filed a writ petition to the supreme court in an appeal to stop the June 22 election, the party source said.

They are appealing against a decision by the Nepal Election Commission which announced in May that elections would be held for 17 National Assembly seats in June in two phases, on June 22 and June 27.

The political oppositions, however, have not boycotted the June 27 elections, an election commission source said.

Unless the supreme court declares the June 22 poll null and void, the five NC candidates have already been technically elected.

Pakistan

Emergency UN Session Called Over Troop Deaths in Somalia

BK0606030693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Pakistan has called for convening an emergency session of the UN Security Council to deliberate the death of three Pakistani soldiers in the Somali capital of Mogadishu. Pakistan's representative at the United Nations Jamshed Marker has said that the 15-member Council is expected to meet today. He said that it is a very serious issue and the Council should consider it on an urgent basis. It may be recalled that Pakistan sent nearly 4,000 forces on the UN peace mission in Somalia. More than 18,000 UN troops are currently stationed there.

The fiercest fighting was reported between the UN forces and supporters of the biggest armed group led by General Mohamed Farrah Aidid in the Somali capital of Mogadishu. Reports say that this was the bloodiest clash in a single day since the deployment of UN troops in Somalia in which at least 16 people, including three Pakistani forces serving under the United Nations, were killed. Details of casualties are still coming in. However, hospital sources say that more than 20 people have been killed and more than 100 injured. UN sources said that the shooting started when troops were conducting a search for weapons near the radio station. The UN body says that the armed groups of Somalia had stored weapons at that site following the foreign invention in December last year. Tanks and armored vehicles supported by helicopters have been dispatched to help nearly 80 Pakistani and 10 U.S. forces still trapped at the site. Gen. Aidid has accused the UN forces of large- scale firing on civilians and has demanded the withdrawal of UN forces from western Mogadishu.

Foreign Office Statement

BK0606111893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] The president and the prime minister of Pakistan have expressed their deep shock and sorrow over the killing of Pakistani soldiers as a result of unprovoked attack by forces of a Somali warring faction in Mogadishu yesterday. A statement issued by the Foreign Office in Islamabad today says the Pakistan Government is deeply shocked at the killing of 22 members of the Pakistani contingent and injuries to 54 in the UN peacekeeping operations in Somalia by the forces of General Aidid. It says the Pakistani contingent was in the process of neutralizing an arms storage dump controlled by General Aidid when they were fired upon without any provocation.

The statement says the Pakistani ambassador in Nairobi has rushed to Mogadishu to extend all possible assistance to the Pakistani contingent so that the wounded are properly treated and the bodies of those killed in action are timely repatriated. An emergency cell has been set by the Foreign Ministry to coordinate all actions relating to the situation. The names of the soldiers killed or wounded will be released by the Ministry of Defense.

The Somali charge d'affaires was called to the Foreign Office and a protest lodged.

Pakistan has also requisitioned an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council where it would call for an investigation into the serious incident, punitive action against culprits, and full compensation for those killed or wounded. Pakistan would also demand that the Pakistani forces in Somalia should be supplied with all the necessary modern equipment to deal with such situation in future.

UN Envoy Cited on Incident

BK0706031493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] The emergency session of the UN Security Council, which was convened to discuss the death of

Pakistani forces serving under the peacekeeping force in Somalia, has adopted a resolution condemning the attack on the peacekeeping force. The session was called by Pakistan to deliberate the incident in the Somali capital of Mogadishu in which 22 Pakistani soldiers were killed and 54 injured. The Security Council has authorized the international force in Mogadishu to adopt all necessary measures in order to take action against elements responsible for the incident. The Security Council said that the armed people who killed the Pakistani forces should be arrested and tried in court. It adopted the resolution after the issue was presented by Pakistan. Pakistan was demanding stern punitive action against the people responsible for the attack on the UN peacekeeping force in which a large number of Pakistani forces were killed and injured and abducted.

Jamshed Marker, Pakistani representative at the United Nations, said that Pakistan would like to see the adoption of a resolution which provides for punitive action. He told the Security Council that it should consider issuing orders to arrest General Mohamed Aidid if it is proved that he was involved in the incident in which Pakistani soldiers were killed. He said that Pakistan wants the establishment of a system under which people attacking the peace force are arrested to meet the requirement of justice. He said it is time that such a system is established. Otherwise, he added, the process of peacekeeping will be endangered. Jamshed Marker said that these attacks are unacceptable and unwarranted and the Security Council should give a stern warning to those responsible for the attack.

In an interview yesterday evening, Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Mohammad Khan said that despite the terrorist attack on its forces, Pakistan remains committed to its position of fulfilling its responsibilities given by the United Nations and deploying its forces for peacekeeping operations. He said that Pakistan adhered to its stand on the peacekeeping process and in addition to its troops in Somalia and Cambodia, who are serving under the United Nations, it is ready to send troops to Bosnia as well. He added that a three-point demand has been presented at the Security Council session, which includes supplying heavy weapons and relevant equipment to Pakistani troops in Somalia, taking action against persons responsible for the attack, and paying compensation for the soldiers who have been killed or injured. He said that Pakistan understands that the United Nations is entitled to establish peace anywhere in the world and Pakistan will assist the world body in this regard.

Iranian MKO Official Assassinated in Karachi

NC0606163193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1533 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Excerpt] London, 6 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Sanabarq Zahedi, secretary of the National Iranian Resistance Council and head of the Arab Department of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO], has stated that MKO member Mohammad Hosein Aryab was killed today in Pakistan at the hand of terrorists sent by the mullah's regime in Iran. Zahedi said Aryab was killed near his home in Karachi when Iraqi intelligence elements shot him in the back with two bullets. A passerby was also injured and later died in hospital.

In a statement to MENA, Zahedi said MKO leader Mas'ud Rajavi sent a cable to the Pakistani president urging him to apprehend and punish the assassins. He also urged him to close the representation offices of the Iranian regime in Pakistan. [passage omitted]

Chinese-Aided Power Plant Nearing Completion

BK0406144493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] In Sindh, work on a thermal power station near Dadu continues at an accelerated pace and it is expected the plant will start generating electricity by August after completion of the first phase. The plant is being built with Chinese collaboration utilizing the local reserves of coal. China is providing Pakistan financial assistance to the tune of $75 million for the project. The total cost for the first phase is estimated to be 2.605 billion rupees. China is also providing technical experts for this important project which is glittering symbol of Pakistan-Chinese friendship. On completion, the plant will produce 150 megawatts of electricity. Pakistan Television's representative Usman Ghani reports that this plant will be linked to the 500-KV national grid on 14th August. With the completion of this project, more electricity will be available for industrial and domestic consumers and it will help reduce loadsheddings in the country.

China To Share in Joint Ventures in Northern Areas

BK0406145693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] Pakistan and China are to undertake joint ventures for the multidimensional development in the northern areas of Pakistan. The projects also include the installation of a liquefied gas plant in Gilgit at a cost of 15 million rupees which will be completed within a period of eight months. An eight-member official delegation of Pakistan recently visited Uygur autonomous region of Xinjiang Province in the People's Republic of China and held wide- ranging talks with the vice governor of the province on bilateral issues, including the possibility of joint ventures. The joint ventures would be in various fields, like installation of small hydel [hydroelectric] power projects, fruit processing and preservation, construction of concrete bridges and dams, besides setting up of agrobased industries. A team of Chinese experts is likely to visit northern areas to study the possibility of these joint ventures in the near future.

Cabinet Demands President's Impeachment

BK0706033693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] In Pakistan, in a significant political development, the federal cabinet has unanimously demanded the impeachment of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. This is for what the cabinet described his illegal and unconstitutional move leading to the dissolution of the National Assembly last month. The AIR [All India Radio] Islamabad correspondent understands that the demand was made at an informal cabinet meeting in Islamabad yesterday, which was chair[illegible] by the prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif. The general view was that Mr. Ishaq Khan should resign voluntarily. No official minutes of the cabinet meeting have been issued, but the entire Pakistani media have carried the story on the demand for president's impeachment prominently.

Sharif, Bhutto Agree To Continue Dialogue

BK0406154893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif today telephoned several prominent political leaders of the country and extended greetings to them on the occasion of the Muslim festival of 'Id al- Adha. These leaders included Benazir Bhutto, the leader of the opposition in the National Assembly; retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan, Jamaat-i-Islami Chief Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmed, Ajmal Khan Khattak, Begum Nasim Wali Khan, Mumtaz Ali Bhutto, and Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi. The prime minister and the political leaders talked with each other in a friendly manner. Benazir Bhutto talked with the prime minister in a cordial manner and the two sides agreed to continue the process of dialogue and understanding initiated during the special session of the National Assembly last Monday.

Bhutto Affirms Readiness To Talk

BK0706035693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Benazir Bhutto, cochairperson of Pakistan People's Party, has said that we are ready to hold consultations with Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and we will take every step to continue the democratic process in the greater interests of the country and the nation. Talking to newsmen on arrival in Islamabad from Karachi last evening, she said that the situation demands that the opposition and the government side sit together to resolve the crisis. She said it is necessary to adopt the path of greater understanding without resorting to bargaining on the stand of political parties.

Sharif Urges Reducing Budget Deficit

BK0606044093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has directed that reducing the budgetary deficit should be given top priority while formulating the forthcoming budget and every possible effort should be made to minimize the burden on the common man. He gave these instructions while presiding over a meeting held in Islamabad yesterday to review preparation of the budget and the economic situation. The prime minister directed that the objective of reducing the deficit should be given the highest priority by curtailing nonessential and nonproductive expenditures, streamlining the tax collection, and mobilizing additional resources. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif also directed that the confidence of investors and traders which was badly shattered by the dissolution of the National Assembly and the elected government should be restored by incorporating effective proposals in the budget. In this regard, a meeting of representatives of industrialists and traders will be held on 8 June and of agriculturists on 9 June to review their proposals on restoring confidence so that they can be incorporated in the forthcoming budget.

The meeting was briefed by Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz on the budgetary requirements, gaps, and steps to reduce the deficit. The meeting was informed that the stock market, which was badly affected due to the political uncertainty caused by the dissolution of the National Assembly, has shown great progress. Similarly, foreign exchange reserves which stood at $815 million on 18 April were reduced to $370 million after the dissolution of the National Assembly, but have now risen to $425 million.

Cabinet Meets on Budget

BK0606145593 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] The Federal Cabinet, which met in Islamabad today, considered various matters relating to the federal budget for the next fiscal year. The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, was in the chair. The meeting noted that the national economy suffered a grave setback and the poor people were badly hit during the 40-day period after the unconstitutional dissolution of the National Assembly. The prime minister directed that, despite these difficulties, it should be kept in mind while preparing the budget that there should be minimum possible burden on the poor. The meeting noted that on the 18th of April, the national exchequer had foreign exchange reserves of $815 million. These reserves fell to $370 million during the 40-day period. However, after restoration of the government, foreign exchange reserves have now risen to $425 million. The meeting lauded the successful economic policies initiated by the prime minister, which have restored the confidence of domestic and foreign investors and resulted in increase in foreign exchange reserves.

The meeting noted with concern that during the tenure of the caretaker regime letters were sent to some friendly Islamic countries seeking their assistance. The meeting paid tributes to the prime minister for withdrawing these letters which were against the spirit of national dignity.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said there would be no compromise on national pride and dignity. He said with the grace of almighty Allah and through objective policies and hard work, the nation will continue to march on the road to progress and prosperity. Lauding the nation's spirit of unity and hard work, the prime minister it would ensure a dignified position for Pakistan in the comity of nations. He said days are not far away when every citizen of Pakistan would enjoy all the basic amenities. He directed that the severe damaged caused to the national economy and other sectors during the 40-day period of the caretaker regime should be assessed.

The Cabinet reviewed the efforts for reconciliation with the opposition. In this regard, guiding principles for the reconciliation committees were finalized. The prime minister expressed the hope that the endeavors to bring about consensus on national affairs among political forces within and outside parliament would succeed. He said we have taken a sincere step in the larger national interest and we are confident that the almighty Allah will crown our efforts with success.

Petition Filed Against Dissolution of NWFP Assembly

BK0506155093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] The Awami National Party and the Pakistan Muslim League today filed a writ petition in the Peshawar High Court, challenging the dissolution of the North-West Frontier Province assembly. Justice Abdul Karim Kundi, the Peshawar High Court's chief justice, and Justice Ibne Ali will hear the case tomorrow morning.

Petition Accepted

BK0606094693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] The Peshawar High Court today accepted for hearing the joint petition filed by the Awami National Party and the Pakistan Muslim League against the dissolution of the North-West Frontier Province [NWFP] assembly. The five-judge court bench will begin formal its hearing of the petition on 13 June.

Party Representatives Demand Elections

BK0606045493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] A representative meeting of various political parties called by Mian Manzur Ahmad Wattoo, caretaker chief minister of Punjab, was held in Lahore last night which approved a number of resolutions. One resolution expressed concern over what they called the political and constitutional crisis in the country. Another resolution demanded holding free, fair, and impartial elections so that the country can be pulled out of the prevailing delicate situation. The caretaker chief minister of Punjab said that the Muslim League-Chatha Group will cooperate with the parties of the All Party Conference. The meeting was attended by representatives of the People's Democratic Alliance, National Democratic Alliance, Islami Jamhoori Mahaz, and the Muslim League-Junejo Group.

Sri Lanka

Spokesman Reports Operations Against LTTE

BK0306112693 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] The security forces killed 18 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] cadres in confrontations in Jaffna, Batticaloa, Weli Oya, and Vavuniya this week. JOC [Joint Operations Command] spokesman Brigadier Nalin Angamana told newsmen at a weekly briefing that these LTTE cadres were confirmed killed, while 14 security personnel also died. Brig. Angamana said that nine civilians were killed in a cross fire near the army detachment in Vavuniya. Twenty-two civilians were injured, of which 12 were seriously wounded in the incident. Responding to a question, the brigadier said that there was more action this week than in previous week. He also said that Operation (Sumalee) is being successfully carried out in the Toppigala jungle area and three forward defense bases have been established by the security forces.

CID: More Findings in Premadasa Assassination

BK0406120693 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1134 GMT 4 Jun 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 4 Jun (LANKAPUVATH)—CID [Criminal Investigation Department] investigations made so far point to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] having committed the assassination of President Ranasinghe Premadasa on 1 May this year, a senior detective told LANKAPUVATH, Friday [4 June].

He said the CID has also identified two suspects believed to be two senior LTTE intelligence-wing cadres who reportedly ran the terrorist hit-squad operation in Colombo to murder Mr. Premadasa.

This included the planning and execution of the assassination, the supply of the one kilogram of RDX plastic explosives which the suicide bomber had strapped to his body, unlimited funds for the assassin to lavishly entertain and ingratiate himself with presidential valet Mohideen which gained him, not only free access to President Premadasa's residence 'Sucharita', but also to vital information concerning Mr. Premadasa and his planned movements.

He named the two suspected terrorists Selliah Kailaya Inthiran of Enaikoddai, Jaffna, who operated a lorry transport service between Jaffna and Colombo, and Markandu Selvarasa of Ponnawattai, Karavedi, Jaffna who worked as a cashier. An all stations police alert has gone out for their arrest.

The CID investigations also point to the suicide bomber, who according to evidence gathered up to now including a birth certificate, was Kulaveerasingham Veerakumar who had allegedly acted under the directions of Inthiran and Selvarasa.

Investigations also reveal that Inthiran, operated a Jaffna- Colombo lorry transport service to smuggle banned goods to Jaffna. It has been found that President Premadasa's valet Mohideen had on several occasions intervened with the military in Vavuniya, using his position on the presidential staff, to get the lorries cleared at check points.

The LTTE leadership is believed to have used the transport service to relay instructions to the hit-squad in Colombo.

Twenty-four suspects are under arrest in connection with President Premadasa's assassination. Two of them are members of Mr. Premadasa's domestic staff.

'Remarkable Increase' in Diamond Industry

BK0506114293 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] Sri Lanka is fast becoming an international center for cutting and polishing of diamonds. According to the chairman of the State Gem Corporation, W.M.B. Weerasinghe, latest gem trade reports indicate that Sri Lanka today is only second to Israel and far superior to India in the cutting and polishing of diamonds. Stressing the great potential of the country's relatively new diamond industry, he said that there had been a remarkable increase in the reexports of diamond.

Sri Lanka had earned an all time high of 4,501 million rupees in foreign exchange in 1992. Earnings for the first four months of this year stood at 2,784 million rupees. This is 1,900 rupees more than that earned during the same period last year. Mr. Weerasinghe said that although the international market for diamond might not expand in volume, Sri Lanka could compete effectively on the basis of price and capture a large slice of the market.